

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Very cold ...

(IR45p) 40p





Sign of the times: Henry Gano, kitchen artist at The Dorchester hotel in London, carves out a New Year greeting in ice, a task which required the assistance of

Photograph: Glynn-Griffiths

Blair freezes out activis



Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour is preparing to cut trade unionists and other activists out of policy-making by dismantling the constituency parties which are their power-base.

In a fundamental reform which will remove the main building blocks of the party's grass-roots organisation, the party's leadership is planning to sweep away a system which has existed for more than half a century. The scheme could plunge a newly-elected Labour government into a Clause-IV-style battle only weeks after it comes to power. However, Tony Blair is believed to be determined to press ahead with plans to push One Member One Vote" right

to the heart of the party.

left-wingers are already preparing for a fierce struggle over it at this year's conference. They fear it would allow a Labour government to push through policies which they would never have accepted, such as a complete break with the unions.

Under plans to be presented early this year to review groups headed by the party chairman, Tom Sawyer, unions and other affiliated groups, such as the Fabians or the Co-operative movement, would lose their links with Labour's grass roots.

General management committees which no constituencies, select candidates and send motions to conference, would be replaced by a small executive of four or five people elected Labour Party, could be used to

The scheme is likely to be through OMOV, he said. This published in May or June, and group would draw up shortlists by criticise the leadership. left-wingers are already prepar- of candidates from an approved Ken Livingstone, Labour Walworth Road list for party members to vote on. Members of unions and other groups would only be able to vote if they were Labour Party

> changes to Labour's annual conference and its National Executive Committee, both of which have seen embarrassing show-downs with left-wingers.

Already, a new code of conduct has been imposed on Labour MPs, prohibiting them from bringing the party into disrepute. There have been hints that the new code, passed last month by the Parliamentary discipline MPs who consistent-

Ken Livingstone, Labour MP By Brent Past, this warned that the measures could plunge the party into internal strife just as it takes power. "It would be madness. There would be massive opposition from a large

trades unionists." he said The plans originate from the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, an influential group which claims to have been instrumental in securing "One

Member One Vote" (OMOV) and the abolition of Clause IV. It has already published an interim report, "New Labour: A Stake-holders' Party", which sets out its views. Ben Lucas, the chair of the committee, argued that power in the party should

be given to individual members. The committee, whose members include Labour's home and the foreign affairs spokesman, Robin Cook, wants policy to made through re-

gional and national forums on

specific issues. Each member should vote on it, it says. The document are the National Executive Committee should no longer make policy and that the annual con-

ference should mirror the US party conventions as showcases which do not "leave things to chance." In future, there should be no more "boring but potentially damaging debates about arcane resolutions". Last year's conference was split by a row over pensions involving the

former minister, Barbara Castle.

Hebron deal

agreed on an Israeli redeploy ment in Hebron, the last West Bank town under occupation. Benjamia Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat are expected to initial the deal shortly. Party had been built "almost on

West film outrage A deal to make a film of the life

should pursue issues through other groups, he suggested. of the serial killer Frederick West was greeted with outrage by politicians, religious leaders "If you are interested in what trades unions are doing then go and his relatives.

audi nurse retracts confession



One of the two British nurses charged with murdering a fellow nurse at Saudi Arabia has withdrawn the confession that withdrawn the confession that be confession that Yvonne Gilford, 51, an Australian She was found stabbed, her colleagues claim was made

under duresst... Detural Parry, 41, told the British consul Tim Lamb, to in-form the Sauth that she did not stand by her confession when he visited her in prison on Monday, 31, from Dundee, and Ms Par-

according to the Saudi-ownell newspaper Al-Rayat. It also emerged yesterday that the Saudi police considered charging a third British nurse in connection with the murder of bastered and smothered in her

So far, Lucille McLauchlan,

room at the King Fahd Military

Medical Centre in Dhahran on

ry, from Hampshire, are the consults of the part in the consults of the consul However, Al-Hayat quoted security sources as saying they had considered charging a third woman. The Saudis believe she was present on two shopping trips when money was taken from Ms Gilford's account.

Diplomatic relations between

telling how the women broke down when told that they were likely to be detained for a long

"Deborah Parry told the con-sul that she wanted to withdraw her confession," said one of the paper's editors.

ficials present, is likely to anger paper said a Saudi religious po-

lice officer and an Interior Ministry official were present. Last night, the Foreign Office refused to comment. A senior

source at Al-Hayat said: "You

The first details of Ms Parry's troubled life emerged yesterday when her sister, Sandra Ashbee, gave an interview to the Express.

She said Ms Parry's mother had drowned while on holiday, her brother had died in a motorcycle accident and her father had died from a heart attack.

Landmark for ancient mariners. Spectacle for modern transliers. The towering Orissa once Islam and the West, page 11

a Soviet model". Activists who

wanted to get things done

along to your local trades union.

If you are interested in envi-

the party had nothing to say

about the review and no con-

clusions had yet been reached.

ronmental issues, than lio group on the environment.

A Labour spokeswork

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Proof The Independent Wilson chose 'traitor'

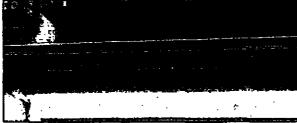
David Usborne

At last we've made it, at least in New York, Everyone is talking about The Independent. I have seen grown men droot.

All this is perfectly natural.

This is a discerning bunch down here in arty Soho, and at three dollars an issue (only one day late). The Independent does offer unparableled intellectual value. Although why the prospect of unfolding our pages should lead to profuse salivation was less clear to the, until I discovered that we are talking about The independent as a restaurant. There it is, in the coolest climes of Tribeca on West Broadway, with its simple but oh-so-refined name em-Nezoned on its awning. The letvirtually

tering is virtually indistinguishable from that of the masthead above. Its doors have only been



Food for thought: The Independent exterie Photograph: Jon Levy

open two weeks, but The In-dependent is assuredly hot. The of typefaces was purely fashion designers Paul Smith and Isaac Mizrahi both chose it for their Christmas parties. On the night I was there this week, there was an editor from the Village Voice on one side and from the Paper, another Soho street-sheet, on the other.

My business card caused a brief stir. Co-owners Bruce Hanks and Jedd Lieberman eyed me nervously. Yes, we know our names are the same. typefaces was purely

Mr Hanks, it turns out, is a Briton and a long-time fan of, yes, us. He was a partner in a London restaurant, the First Floor on the Portobello Road, in 1986 when this newspaper was launched and was an instant fan. "Independent' is just such a brilliant word," he explains. So good luck to the Independent and long may it prosper and long may we be the talk of New York.

is good enough to eat | to head spy inquiry

The web of Cold War conspiracy spun around Harold Wilson is set to thicken after today's disclosure that as Labour Prime Minister he urged the appointment of Sir Roger Hollis, the suspect MI5 chief, to an official inquiry into the 1966 jail escape of a Soviet spy.

This is revealed in government papers at the Public Record Office which are reeased under the 30-year rule. After the escape of the double agent George Blake from Wandsworth prison in south-west London, Wilson suggested that Hollis - recently retired as head of MIS - join the inquiry chaired by Lord Mountbatten of Burma, the former chief of the defence staff.

But Mountbatten and the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins,

The 1966 papers page 4.

orandom to Wilson puts it, the role of the Security Service under Hollis was itself going to be examined. "He would probably not be able to contribute a great deal to the work on prison security", it says. Today it reads ironthen it may or may not have reflected suspicions of Hollis.

In a curious aside which some might take as evidence of that, the memo highlights MI5's "alleged wish that Blake would be kept in a London prison".

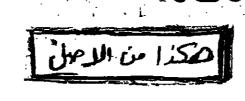
It was not till the Fighties that
Hollis, who died in 1973, was fingered as a possible traitor. The proposition was voiced by spy-catcher Peter Wright and has never been confirmed; Wright, by his own admission, "bugged

and burgled" his way around

London when Wilson was next Prime Minister, in the Seventies. What the 1966 papers show beyond dispute is how distracted the Wilson regime was by security - from Communists in the unious to the reign of terror at No 10 by Wilson's personal security adviser, George Wigg, over leaks to the press.

Even in official records MI6,

the Secret Intelligence Service, was not referred to by name. Secarrity buffs will pore over the report of the briefing after Blake's escape given by MI6's chief, Sir Dick White, to Wilson and the Opposition leader, Edward Heath. White was completent. insisting that even if Blake ended up in the Soviet Union (he did), he could not do any more damage to British interests. There was not therefore any very strong Soviet obligation to him. They might conceivably give him some money and leave him to work out his own future."



Record numbers die in prison

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A record number of inmates committed suicide in jails in England and Wales last year, provoking anger among penal reformers who blamed overcrowding and harsher regimes

on the rise. their own lives with at least a further 10 suicides in Scottish jails, including three at the country's only establishment

This year's total, announced

Harding

fortune

goes to

wife and

mistress

The £200m left by Matthew

Harding, the chairman of Chelsea Football Club who

died in a helicopter crash while

returning from an away match

at Bolton last October, is to be

divided between his children, his

His will, published yesterday,

makes no mention of the foot-ball club in which Mr Harding

invested more than £40m dur-

left with two executors, Mark Killick and Margaret Nugent.

Their instructions are to include

provision for his twin sons by his

wife Ruth and for Ella, his

daughter by girlfriend Vicky

42 at the time of his death, also

names Jessica. Ms Jaramillo s

daughter from a previous rela-

tionship.
The shareholders in his for-

mer business, The Benfield Group, will also benefit. Mr

Harding organised a successful

management buy-out of the

The will was witnessed by

England football coach Glenn

Hoddle and by a London taxi

It bears the date of 22 May

1996, exactly two months before

the fatal accident in Cheshire

which also killed four other

company which owns the club.

ford Bridge ground, in south-west London, paid out for the

new North Stand, and regular-

ly made cash available for buy-

Chelsea FC may be left with

driver called Grant Davis.

company in 1988.

In the will Mr Harding, aged

The inheritance will be divided according to instructions

wife and his girlfriend.

ing his lifetime.

Jaramillo.

Vanessa Thorpe

yesterday, is four higher than the previous peak in 1994. The death tally has been gradually rising with 33 suicides in England and Wales in 1989.

there were 39 suicides in prisons in England and Wales, rising to 47 in 1993 and 62 in 1994. Deborah Coles, co-director Sixty-four prisoners took of Inquest, a pressure group for people who die in custody, said: "It's a chilling reminder of the reality of prison life. My fear is

that the continuing trend to im-

prison people and combined

with increasingly harsh regimes

Clare Sparks, policy officer of the Prison Reform Trust said: The record number of suicides In the year from April 1990 is a result of tremendous financial constraints and over-crowd-

ing in the prison service in 1996. This has lead to cuts in important measures such as education, recreation, and the treatment of mentally ill inmates." She added that prisoners on remand, who were particularly vulnerable, were not getting enough attention.

will lead to an ever growing number of deaths." the Prison Service, stressed that because of the increased number of inmates, the number of suicides proportionate to the prison population – which at an average 55,200 this year was 4,200 higher than in 1995 – had actually fallen. But he added: "I am con-

cerned that, while proportionate to the population suicides have slightly reduced, the level of self-inflicted deaths is still

too high.
"We will do everything possible to reduce the number next year. I believe the pre-Richard Tilt, the director of

veloped at prisons over the last two years have helped and will continue to do so.

Suicide prevention strategies include risk awareness training for staff, allowing Samaritan volunteers to visit prisoners regularly, and "listener" schemes which involve training prisoners to provide support for other in-

In Scotland, where last year's figures have yet to be released, the problem of prison suicides has been highlighted by the spate of deaths at Comton Vale

An investigation has begun into the latest death, that of Yvonne Gilmour, 22, from Glasgow, who was found dead on Christmas Eve. Despite being on suicide watch, which meant she was regularly observed by staff in her cell, she

still managed to hang herself with a bed sheet. A report into previous deaths described conditions at the prison as a "mixture between a casualty clearing station and a psychiatric ward'

Floating prison, page 6

significant shorts

Legal aid for overdose baby's parents

A couple who are planning egal action against a hospital after their baby was given an overdose of morphine have been granted legal aid. Kieren Luscombe was six

weeks old when he was given 10 times the correct dose of the pain-killer during a hernia operation at Treliske hospital, Cornwall, because his prescription had been misread. He turned blue and had fits.

A brain scan revealed no abnormalities, but the family's solicitor, Philip Snell, said yesterday that it would not be known for several years whether there was any

long-term brain damage. A medical report will also be prepared on Kieren's mother Julie, who lives near Redruth. She was at the hospital and suffered psychological trauma.

Hogmanay off the rails

Hogmanay travellers in Scotland yesterday faced disruption as rail crews went on strike. ScotRail said fewer than 50 per cent of RMT conductors and ticket examiners obeyed the latest strike call, enabling it to run 80 per cent of services. The union said that 50 per cent of trains were affected.

The walkout follow the disciplining of 17 union members involved in an earlier series of one-day stoppages over productivity and other issues.

Christie brother withdrawn inquest opens

An inquest was opened vesterday into the death of the brother of the Olympic sprinter Linford Christie. Westminster Coroner's Court in central London heard that Russell Christie 34, of Shepherd's Bush, west

London, died from a stab wound to his neck. No members of the Christie family were present at the hearing, which was

adjourned.

A man has been charged with murder.

British Airways extinguishes " cigarettes

Smokers face a further challenge from today as 90 per cent of British Airways lights - including Concorde become smoke free.

More than 350 additional daily flights to Africa, Europe, the Middle and Far East and North America will ioin the current 750 non-

smoking flights.

British Airways' chief executive, Bob Ayling, said: "More than eight out of 10 passengers now request nonsmoking seats and the numbers are growing."
Smoking is being retained

on certain routes where there is demand: Spain, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Pakistan, Latin America, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan. BA will continue to sell duty-free cigarettes on its flights.

Cullen wins promotion

Lord Cullen, the Dunblane inquiry judge, has been promoted to become Scotland's second most senior judge. He will become Lord Justice Clerk, succeeding Lord Ross, who is

The appointment, announced by the Prime Minister's office, carries a salary of £121,190, a rise of more than £4,000 on the £117,000 salary of senior Scottish judges.

Sex-act disc

A store chain has stopped selling a computer games disc after it was found to contain an explicit sex scene.

The HMV record group is clearing the CD-ROM from its shelves and yesterday offered refunds to customers. A woman who bought the 3,000-game Speccy CD 1996 for £7.99 in HMV in

Manchester discovered a sequence depicting a woman performing a sex act on a man. An HMV spokesman apologised to anyone who had been offended by the disc. which is from Germany.

Blow for youth: The Waubonsie Valley High School Marching Warriors Band, from Illinois, playing at Wembley Grand Hall for the London Parade Festival, a series of concerts by young musicians from around the world. It culminates in a parade in the capital todayPhotograph: Keith Dobney Protect the weak, urges Carey



Dr Carey: 'It is a good time to search our souls'

The Archbishop of Canterbury called on society to make an "uncompromising commitment to protect the weak and vulnerable", in his New Year ad-

dress broadcast today. Dr George Carey also re-called the Dunblane tragedy in which 16 infants and one teacher were killed and other crimes against children and adults in his remarks made five minutes after midnight, and shown on BBC1 at 1am.

Dr Carey anticipated the general election and reflected on the kind of society that we have become - and the kind we wish to be - as the end of the century approaches. He said: "In looking back, there will be many who will be deeply thankful that 1996 has ended.

For those of us who love children, 1996 will forever speak of Dunblane and some of the other terrible crimes committed inst voung children and adults alike. It is a reminder that at the very heart of a decent society there must be an uncompromising commitment to protect-

ing the weak and vulnerable. None of us knows what 1997 will bring. Nationally, we shall be facing a general elec-

tion. Individually, all kinds of all people of every race and challenges lie ahead, and many uncertainties.

"As we look to the millennium, many of us are asking questions about the kind of people and the kind of society we want to be. It is a good time to search our souls.

Dr Carey said he remem-bered the 1,400th anniversary of Augustine - the first Archbishop of Canterbury in 597 - as he looked at the paintings in the chapel at Lambeth Palace, but he also drew attention to the modern pictures "to remind us that the Church today is for

The images show outstretched hands praying and the Archbishop said: "Hands lifted in prayer must result in hands reaching out to all people with the love of God."

Dr Carey ended with a prayer for the New Year: "Eternal God, I place myself into your hands this coming year. May we walk together, hand in hand, and in my actions may your will be done. Amen.'

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ACROSS

Diamond shape (7) Girl's name (5) Indian currency (5) Fundamental (7) 10 Person of uncompro-

mising views (9)
12 Drink small amounts Sensitive plant (6) 14 Escapade (6)

Move clumsily (5) Type of fastener (3) Sewing implements (7) Mission (6) Shrub (5) Non-stop (9) Oval (7) Quantity left over (9) 13 Kind of duck (7)

15 Pharmacist (7) 17 Hawaiian garland (3) 16 Business to be conduct-18 Was sorry about (9) 20 Belly (7) 21 Likeness (5)

ed (6) 18 Card game (5) 19 Clothe (5) Midlands city (5) 22 Beverage (3) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Bryer, 4 Logical (Biological). 8 Launder, 9 Upper, 10 Argue, 11 Estuary, 13 Earl, 15 Saturn, 17 Avenue, 20 Name, 22 Conceal, 24 Niche, 26 Infer, 17 Opulent, 28 Bekited, 29 Enter, DOWN: 1 Ballads, 2 Young, 3 Red deer, 4 Larder, 5 Gaunt, 6 Captain, 7 Lorry, 12 Slam, 14 Anna, 16 Timeful, 18 Venture, 19 Elector, 21 Almond, 22 Climb, 23 Egret, 25 Cheat.

Notes

Weather forecast

forecast for today Another bitterly cold day over England and Wales with subzero temperatures. Shellered western areas should stay mostly dry and

treland will be bright but cold with light snow showers near eastern coasts, and a band of sleety rain will reach northern Scotland this outlook for the next few days Tomorrow will also be very cold in all parts with severe trost early and

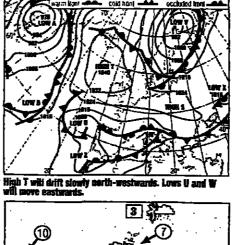
surmy but snow showers are expected in eastern and southern counties, but these should the out this afternoon, Scotland and N

late. Some paticity light sleet or snow will affect Scotland and Northern Ireland, while England and Wales have sunny spells and just a lew coastal snow showers. On Friday and Saturday many places will be dry and bright but it will remain cold with hard frosts, and there may be some wintry showers in eastern counties of Scotland and England. high tides Height measures in meber

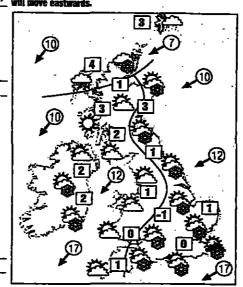
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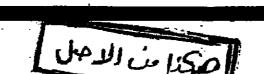
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Pensioner's death after £11m win and troubles of others confirm critics' dire warnings



Mukhtar Mohidin The lottery's first big winner. Initially fled the country



Win coincided with 18-month



All part of life's lottery

Louise Jury

allen wins

here

Application of the Comment

Twenty months ago Ernie Bailey, a widower, won £11m on the National Lottery. Today he

Already in poor health, the 63-year-old former factory worker put on weight, continued to smoke, and was found lifeless in the bed of his new luxury home on Sunday.

Yesterday his family denied claims that he had binged himself to death on beer and takeaways. "Ernie had had three heart attacks and simply didn't have the strength to binge," said a family friend, Terry

"If anyone knew his medical history, they would know that his death wouldn't come as a big shock. He was an ill man. As far as the family is concerned, Ernie died in his sleep and that's all there is to

But in the wake of a series

of sad stories which must have made the lottery organisers Camelot despair, his death is a reminder that winning can be

happiness to Hello! magazine, the curse of the lottery comes down as if that bright blue promotional finger is really wagging a warning: It could be

When Ernie Bailey won his fortune in April last year on a ticket shared with his younger son, 23-year-old Derek, he did not immediately head for the Caribbean or Florida as others have done. He packed eight of his family into a caravan for six and headed for North Wales.

He did abandon the crimeridden Castle Vale council estate in Birmingham and moved to a luxury bungalow in Little Aston Park, five miles away in the more upmarket Sutton Coldfield.

But he brought his older son Mark, 31, into the money not by giving him a million or two but employing him as chauffeur for his new range of smart cars at a reported salary of £500-aweek. He employed Mark's wife, Tracey, as his cleaner. Mr Bailey senior did, however, buy the couple a bungalow just along from his in the same



Won £11m in April 1995. Found dead Ernie Bailey

new millionaire's home where years. the curtains stayed tightly.

stood uncollected outside the enjoyed them for less than two

Whether his new-found

that the dramatic change in lifestyle a jackpot brings can be

devastating. Claire Rayner, the agony aunt, said: "Over the years when people have said to me, 'I want to be rich and famous', I've said, 'Doing what?'. It's very hard to describe to people how destructive that can be.

"Some people handle it terribly well. But in general the most terrible thing to happen to a human being is change. This is why people have problems when they get married or pass exams. An ambition

achieved is like a death." She guessed Mr Bailey probably lost more than he gained through his win. "If the man did drink too much, it was probably an attempt to comfort himself for what he had lost. I hate the lottery in its present form. It's lovely to give people the chance of £10,000 or, at a pinch, £100,000. But you shouldn't have enough to move too far out of the life you've

Certainly other lottery winners have had their problems. Mukhtar Mohidin, the Blacka burden as well as a boon.

Like the misfortune befalling couples who speak of their couples who spea

try, then temporarily split from his wife while his family feuded over the spoils.

Robbie Woods, a 24-year-old garage mechanic, found himself besieged by gold-diggers. Manny Mercer, 54, had a heart attack in the excitement of becoming a millionaire and the jackpot win by 32-year-old Lee Ryan coincided with an 18month jail sentence for han-

dling stolen cars. Most notoriously of all, Mark Gardiner and Paul Maddison shared a recordbreaking £22.6m jackpot which put a strain on their friendship and produced a string of ex-wives, girlfriends and friends

queuing up to curse their luck. Yet some remain down-toearth. The 33 members of the Camden Housing Project in London who shared a £10m jackpot returned to work with a better class of biscuit the only visible sign of their success.

A Camelot spokeswoman said: "We have 30 million people playing every week and it's a fun pastime for them. Most

Fred West film deal is condemned as sick

Glenda Cooper

A deal to make a film of the life of the serial killer Frederick West was greeted with outrage last night by politicians and re-ligious leaders, who condemned it as an insult to the relatives of his victims.

The Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, confirmed that he had entered into a contract with the Portman Entertainment Group which gives it non-documentary film, television, video and ancillary rights to archive material from the West estate.

ial from the West estate.

West's elder brother Doug said yesterday that the plan was "sick" and would do nothing to help the relatives of the Cromwell Street victims to recover from the tragedy. Politicians urged the Attorney cians urged the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, to intervene to stop the sale.

Much of the material given to Portman Entertainment, one of the oldest independent television production companies in Britain, was derived from the police inquiry which led to West being charged with 12 murders.

He hanged himself on New Year's Day two years ago before the trial could take place but his wife Rosemary was later convicted on 10 murder counts and sentenced to imprisonment.

The material includes many hours of tape recordings with the police, copies of West's favourite pornographic films and pages of his memoirs written during his time in Winson Green prison before the trial.

The Official Solicitor was appointed by the courts to look after the interests of the West children and has the responsibility of maximising the financial return on the estate. No details have been given about financial aspects of the film deal but it is believed to be in four figures, with extra payable

the British rights to the Australian soap Home and Away, and the mini-series A Woman of Substance starting Liam Neeson and Deborah Kerr.

The contract also includes an option agreement to An Evil Love, a biography of Frederick West by the former Fleet Street journalist Geoffrey Wansell.

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev David Bentley, said yesterday he "deplored" the news that a film could be made and Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, said: This is another sordid example of commercial exploitation of tragic events which the residents of Gloucester would pre-

fer to forget."

Alex Carlile, Liberal Demo-

It is shocking that the Official Solicitor is entering into a contract for the sale of this material

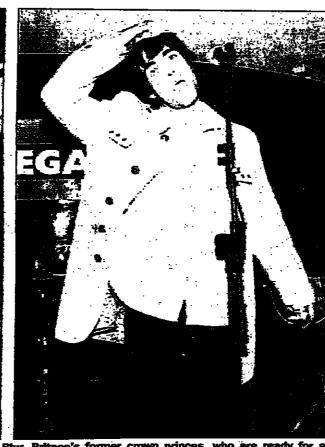
crat spokesman on justice and legal affairs, urged Sir Nicholas to step in to stop the sale of the film rights.

"It is deeply shocking that the Official Solicitor, who is a government official, is entering, in his public role, into a contract for the sale of material which is derived from one of the greatest public mischiefs of modern times," he said.

Doug West said: "The relatives of the victims have had enough, I have had enough. I was hoping to have a good New Year and put all this behind me. Now it will all come up again. It's a bit sick as far as Portman Entertainment's idea drops off and the film past successes include acquiring never comes out."

Blur turn against Blair...





Sticking to business: Damon Albam (left) recording for Blur, Britpop's former crown princes, who are ready for a comeback with a new album after giving centre stage to the pop-star antics of Casis, led by Liam Gallagher (right)

... in new battle of the bands

David Lister Arts News Editor

Paul McCartney's knighthood seems to have inspired a new respeciability in rock music. Blur, once Britpop's brightest lights and arch rivals to Oasis, have emerged from a year's exile extolling ascricism and maturity
and despising the Labour leader Tony Blair.

While Oasis had a well-documented year of global success and laddish behaviour, Blur retreated from the limelight. They have returned as new

Damon Albarn, the heartthrob leader of the band, is discases studious concentration, and drinking only in modera-tion, if at all. And he has be-tion, if at all. And he has become the first rock star to urge

the virtues of a coalition gov-It is barely a year ago that

Blur seemed likely to outshine won the much-hyped battle for the first number one single from their respective new alburns in 1995. But after that Oasis's fame erupted, and Blur retreated into splendid isolation. seemingly forgotten by their fans. In the Radio 1 listeners' poll this week, Oasis had two times in the listeners' all-time

top 10, Blur had none. Now, shortly to release a new album, the former crown princes of Britpop are back. The band's front man, Albam, redainful of the pop-star antics of mains sparing of speech, but his rivals, Instead, he advo-

would be voting in the general election, Albara says: "Blair has a worryingly conservative Oasis It was Bhir not Oasis who streak and he's taken his own personality so far into the arena of appeasement he's no longer a valid leader of a socialist party. But I will be voting for him, and Labour will get in. Just don't expect any changes, that's all. We'd do better with a coali-

Asked by Q magazine how he

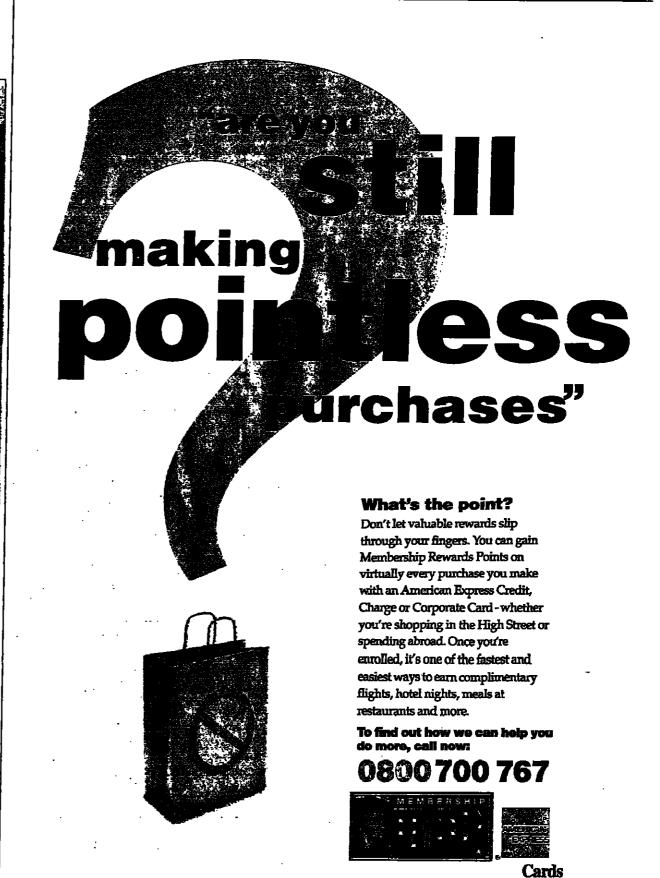
tion government." On the subject of rock stars behaving like rock stars he is quick to point out his own outfit's new asceticism. "Graham has stopped drinking completely," he says of one fellow band member. "I still drink but in small bouts, although I've

never really done it to excess." Pointedly, he stresses that the year-long making of the band's new record required "concentration" and a rejection of the

tabloid antics of certain other groups. He says: "It wouldn't have been possible to make this record if we'd been visible, or doing big gigs, or splashed over the tabloids. It required a lot of concentration."

And Albam even places himself in the vanguard of the middie-aged, firing a broadside at one of the most popular rock stars in the world, Bono of U2, sounding for all the world like a parent in the Sixties, as he accuses Bono of not being able to sing tastefully.

Asked if he is looking forward to the new U2 album, Albarn replies: "I'd like a lot of U2 tunes if they'd just take the vocal off. I have a problem with Bono's voice. The rest of them make tasteful music ... He'd be a lot more respected by musicians if he'd tone down those



THE 1966 PAPERS

MI5 fuelled fears of Communists in unions

Public Record Office files re-leased today confirm the sus-sympathy with the seamen picion that the Security Service, MIS, extensively penetrated the British trade union movement of Communist Party involvement before he made his celebrated remark about the 1966 seamen's strike being masterminded by a "tightly knit group of politically motivated men". But the official record of

whose ranks included the present deputy leader of the Labour Party, John Prescott. In from agents convinced the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, of Communist Party in the Strike had been precipitated by the shipowners in the Strike had been precipitated by the shipowners in the Strike had been precipitated by the shipowners in the Strike had been precipitated by the shipowners in the Strike had been precipitated by the shipowners in the Strike had been precipitated by the shipowners in the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the ship with the Strike had been precipitated by the S ed by the shipowners. In private they said the finding of the court of inquiry into the strike which the government backed in public - gave the seamen less than they deserved. However, ministers were also

worried that seamen were be-

tiating committee putting their case to shipowners. In extended sessions at No 10, Wilson met both groups during the dispute in an effort to mediate. But he had been warned by the Security Service that one of the committee, Gordon Norris, was seeing the industrial organiser of the Communist Party of

Great Britain, Bert Ramelson,

more or less daily "to plan the next move in the strike and the

outcome of discussions at the

executive of the National Union

Edward Heath, leader of the Opposition, attacked Wilson for alleging a conspiracy without naming names. In response, Wilson offered him a secret briefing courtesy of MI5. At it he told him of a "close correlation between decisions taken at meetings of the Communist Party, the commentary of the Morning Star [the CP newspaper] the next day and the decision subsequently reached by the National Union of Seamen".

Reports by David Walker and John Crossland For instance, the key decision to reject the court of inquiry report was taken the day before the report was published and the Communist Party had decided that the Executive Committee of the National Union of Seamen should be persuaded at its meeting on the following day to con-tinue the strike. The executive

committee reached the decision the Communists wanted. Earlier that year Wilson had been told of Communist influ-

whose name has been blanked out from the official papers now on public view. A threatened railway strike had been called off at the last moment.

In February, a Home Office official minuted Wilson's principal private secretary. "From the outset [the Communists] viewed the dispute in predom-inantly political terms and their objective was to discredit and bring to a halt the current in-

ence in the National Union of Railwaymen - information se-cured by an MI5 informant, was to retain sufficient non-Communist support to ensure that the strike notice was maintained throughout the negotiations in the hope that the government's will might ultimately be broken."

He continued: "The Party started from a position of reasonable strength. Quite apart from the fact that it was dealing with an issue popular with railwaymen it had two of its

gotiating committee, including the chairman, Dan Kelly, and its influence with the district councils meant that it could rely on a flew of militant resolutions to strengthen any waverers on the executive council itself."

The agent concluded. In retrospect, the party views its efforts as a well-fought rearguard action in a worthwhile fight. It believes that the government and the railway board have bought nothing more than time.'

Cabinet plan for ads on BBC radio

A meeting of the Wilson Cabinet approved in principle the idea that the BBC should take advertising on one of its radio channels to bail it out of a financial crisis.

It was only after several further meetings and some spirited lobbying from the BBC's then vice-chairman. Lord Fulton, and its director-general, Hugh Greene, that the proposal was dropped. Labour in those days was attracted by advertising as a source of revenue for public purposes.

At a January Cabinet it was proposed that council rates could be kept down by giving councils a percentage of the proceeds from setting up local commercial radio stations. The proposal was deferred pending the conclusions of a large-scale review of councils.

US tapped for funding of OU

Lack of money to pay for Harold Wilson's brainchild, the Open University, prompted the Prime Minister to suggest American firms and foundations should be

approached for donations. He asked his legal adviser, Lord Goodman. to make soundings. Wilson himself said he would contact the president of the Ford Foundation, the former White House official McGeorge Bundy.

Murder for eastern stars

The might of Her Majesty's diplomatic service was mobilised to ensure a new generation of British ambassadors abroad - pop stars – encountered no

From Japan a chargé d'affaires anxiously reported rumours of an assassi attempt on the Beatles and said he proposed to do all he could to make a success of a forthcoming tour by the Rolling Stones.

Argentina's bitter Cup

Foreign Office files report how England's victory against Argentina in the 1966 World Cup provoked an anti-British backlash in Buenos Aires, with the British embassy receiving numbers of "abusive" calls. After an ill-tempered game, the England manager, Alf Ramsay, stopped the players swapping shirts and called the Argentines "animals".

Aberfan crisis

Alf Robens, chairman of the National Coal Board at the time of the Aberfan disaster, only seems to have survived thanks to his own marked reluctance to resign and Wilson's reluctance to

Other ministers felt that he should carry the can after a Tribunal of Inquiry report which Wilson himself said was a "damaging indictment of the NCB".

Marcia and the war of the photocopier

During 1966 Harold Wilson's political secretary, Marcia Williams (now Baroness Falkender), engaged in a pitched battle with his civil service private secretary Derek Mitchell over office facilities while leaks to the press produced a constant stream of self-exculpating memoranda to the Prime Minister from officials and party colleagues.

looked after official business while Mrs Williams - who had been positively vetted by the Security Service - looked after Wilson's party and constituency work. Both sides bitched about one another.

Barely a year after Labour took power in October 1964 Mr Mitchell was penning pompous notes asking if it was not time Mrs Williams got her own "political" photocopier. His assistant. Jane Parsons, evidently kept a surreptitious eye on the Rank Xerox 914. In one note she alleged that a "considerable amount" of party political work was being done on the copier.

At the beginning of the 1966 election campaign, No 10 staff proposed that use of the official machine would be charged to Transport House, Labour HQ. If Transport House were to supply its own copier, "security cannot be used to make quick

copies of classified papers. The official files are stuffed

were the source of leaks. Even Wilson's security adviser, the Paymaster General, George Wigg, felt the need to submit a long typewritten memo to Wilson in July 1966 explaining who he had and who he had not seen.

Wigg was embarrassed because he had seen a Sunday Times journalist, Stephen Fay, nd party colleagues. who in turn denied he was the Ostensibly the civil servants source of a leak from the conversation to Private Eye, which sought to pooh-pooh Harold Wilson's suggestion that Communists were behind industrial unrest in Britain that year. Another story, about Clyde-

side dock workers getting a pay and conditions deal which appeared to break the prevailing pay norm provoked a flurof denials. Trevor Lloyd Hughes, the civil service press officer at No 10, sent a memo to George Wigg in his capacity as security chief listing all his dealings with the press. The party press officer based at No 10. Gerald Kaufman (now a Labour MP), went through his diary before coming up with a clincher. He could not have briefed the press on the relevant day because he was away from

the Jewish New Year". Mr Wilson went on to audrills" would have to ensure "it thorise the compilation of "source books", which indexed press cuttings by code, togeth-er with lists of journalists, "so the with memos from civil servants subject could be traced from be-

the office that day "observing

Minister denying they had and MPs statements can be talked to journalists and so examined as well as journalists." **Sweeteners for** Catholic schools

The same Labour government that in 1966 looked with "benevolent neutrality" on reforms to the abortion and sexual offences law also increased the rate of grant to Roman Catholic schools.

ï

Prime Minister Harold Wilson, himself one of the most cautious members of the Cabinet when it came to making government time available for private members' bills to reform the laws on homosexuality. urged his Secretary of State for Education, Tony Crosland, to cultivate the Catholic and Anglican bishops. The papers show this was

something Crosland, otherwise renowned as a free thinking liberal, was happy to do. After conversations with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool Crosland proposed increasing the state grant to Catholic schools to 80 per cent and making new grants to Catholic training colleges.

His reasoning was that the money would sweeten the church authorities towards comprehensive schools.

Cabinet discussion of the year's great "social legislation" (abortion law reform was begun in 1966 but completed in 1967) was minimal. Most discussion took place, if at all, in Cabinet committees rather than the full Cabinet. Wilson emerges as a cautious voice, saying for instance that he was "in no way committed to giving extra time for homosexual law reform". In a note to Douglas Houghton,

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and chairman of the Cabinet's social services committee, Wilson wondered whether they needed to "rush" their thinking about allowing local social services departments to dispense contraceptive advice.

Wilson, MP for the Merseyside seat of Huyton, was clearly concerned about Catholic opinion. But the Cabinet committee was enthusiastic. "The fact that one section of the community would not wish to use facilities was not sufficient reason for withholding them from others." A report from the Church of England Board of Social Responsibility in favour of extending the availability of contraception belped.

But in language that would not be considered politically correct today, Houghton said he was in favour of more contraception because "the problems of our social services are aggravated by the calls made upon them by the families of feckless, sub-normal and irresponsible parents".

But for all its reputation for social reform the Wilson government backed away from two measures discussed in the social services Cabinet committee. One was to redistribute money spent on family allowances to ensure it went only to the needy. The second was to replace "national assistance" (as income support was then called) with a universal "income guarantee clawed back from the better off through income tax.



Wembley final: Manager Alf Ramsey intervenes in a shirt exchange between teams after England's World Cup victory over Argentina



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Currency union with US floated

Desperation over sterling led to see President Lyndon John-the Wilson government in 1966 son in Washington, the US said to propose a currency union with the United States.

At a critical Cabinet meeting called to discuss emergency measures to combat speculation against sterling in July that year, Harold Wilson floated the idea of a "link between sterling and the dollar" based, at first, on a floating exchange rate between the two currencies

overseen by a joint commission.

The Americans were none too enthusiastic. According to Wilson, reporting back to the Cabinet in August after a trip fice in October 1964 he and

the British should set up a

lantic monetary links. The planned link-up with the US indicates the extent of the Wilson government's desperation when, in the wake of the seamen's dispute and renewed hostilities in Vietnam, history of Britain.

sterling started to plummet. Under pressure from col-leagues Wilson even agreed a dramatic Cahinet "think-in" on whether the pound should be devalued - since coming to of-

had tried to smother all talk of cutting the pound's value.

Hidden in a secret annexe to

the main Cabinet papers, the report of the debate on 19 July takes an unprecedented six pages and is likely to be read by historians as one of the crucial turning points in the post-war

Though Wilson said "if the choice lay simply between devaluation and maintenance of full employment he would prewas an alternative - deflation. An unnamed Cabinet member

said the cuts would have to be savage. "A fundamental weak-ness in the government's present policy was the fact we were seeking to maintain a position in the world which our economy could not support ... the only practical course was to abandon a very substantial part of our oversca [sic] commitment.

The Cabinet was also told it should cut unproductive expenditure, eg on social benefits. health and housing until our rate of growth was adequate to supfer to devalue" he insisted there port the burden of the social expenditure we wished to

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Cabinet plan for ads on LIBC radio

Name of the

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(too cold for an ostrich to bury its head)

Vanessa Thorpe

Revellers in Trafalgar Square and in the Highlands of Scotland shivered in temperatures of minus 4C during one of the coldest New Year's Eves for 15 years.

Two people died as the icy weather blew in from Russia where anyone foolhardy enough to see in the New Year in Red Square, Moscow, would have had to brave wind blasts of minus 18C.

Temperatures in some parts of the Britain were as low as 10C, with Kent and Sussex taking the brunt. Up to fell. Kent suffered particularly bad-



10cms of snow fell on the South Downs, while the London Weather Centre reported 12cms in parts of East Sussex. Southern England last saw such snows in 1981 when 15cms

ly last night with black ice and drifting snows and speed restrictions widely imposed.

A 57-year-old Suffolk farmworker collapsed and died while digging shire, Northumberland, Cumbria

old woman fell and froze to death while walking her dog on Sunday in four-wheel drive vehicle. The AA while walking her dog on Sunday in the Cardiff area. Main roads around Penrith were blocked by drifting snow and ice while many roads in York-

stepped up the number of its national patrols by 20 per cent and warned drivers to revise any plans to travel

The charity Crisis decided to keep open 13 of the Christmas shelters that were due to close down yester-

A Eurostar spokesman, said yesterday that the cold weather had

probably been to blame for Monday's breakdown. Snow caked on the underearriage is suspected to have melted and caused the power failure which stranded 300 passengers for

Goldsmith party is scorned as amateur

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party is run by a group of amateurs who have mustered the support of only about 15,000 people nationwide, a defector from the party said yesterday.

John Bostock, who resigned last summer to work for the new organisation, has now moved on again, to the UK Independence

He said that in some parliamentary seats the Referendum Party did not have a single supporter. Sir James and his supporters plan to field a candidate at the general election in every seat where the sitting MP fails to back a referendum on

Europe.

Mr Bostock, who was paid

the party, £24,000 per year by the party, was a regional campaign manager, responsible for overseeing the fight in 71 seats. However, he became convinced that the party's appeal was severely limited and that its ambitious plans were based on "a complete and utter fallacy".

"The whole thing is a non-sense, Fifteen-thousand out of

58 million people is a drop in the ocean," he said of the num-ber of pledges of support. "It is a nothing party... The average Conservative party association has about 1,000

Mr Bostock's comments will lend weight to the arguments of those who say Sir James's pro-

ject is implausible and that it will not catch the popular mood in

The former Conservative will now stand as a candidate in Preston for the UK Independence Party, which believes that Britain should withdraw from the European Union and that trade links with Europe

Yesterday he said the Referendum Party simply lacked organisation, and that there was no real co-ordination between its departments. A promised list of supporters had failed to materialise.

"It is a campaign run with amateurs. People are leaving all the time, for many of the same reasons - lack of organisation and disillusionment.

Mr Bostock accused Sir James of "back-tracking" on his original suggested referendum question - whether Britain should be governed from Westminster or Brussels. The Referendum Party leader now prefers a "multi-optional" plebiscite accommodating a "diversity of views".

A spokeswoman for the Ref-erendum Party, Priti Patel, said it did not have members because it was non-political, campaigning simply on a single issue. Mr Bostock was "clearly slightly bitter" because he had only managed to recruit five candidates in the North-west. She said there were now 48 candidates ready to stand in the area. "We have replaced him with a very

e the expert advice that

DAILY POEM

A Puppy Called Puberty/ A Dog Called Elderly

By Adnan Mitchell

It was life keeping a puppy in your underpants
A secret puppy you weren't allowed to show to anyone Not even wait best friend or your worst enemy

You wanted to pat him stroke him cuddle him All the time but you weren't supposed to touch him

He only skpt for five minutes at a time Then he is studdenly perk up his head In the multile of school medical inspection And always on bus rides So you had to climb down from the upper deck 1 So you that to came down from the upper deck
1 All bent double to snuggle the puppy off the bus
Without the buxom conductress spotting
Your wheel and ticketless stowaway.

Jumping up, wet-nosed, eagerly wagging -He only appeal being a nuisance When were alone together Pretention to be doing your homework But really gazing at each other Through hat and hazy daydreams

Of the achieve houncing in their sweaters.

A Dog Called Elderly

And to a 1 have a dog called Elderly Ind a ner wants to do to now and then be let out for a piss due specialic rest of his lifetime Shepping on my lap in front of the fire.

hoice from the TS Eliot Prize short-list has already not on Radio 4's Pick of the Week and Pick of the Year. in appears in Blue Coffee (Bloodase), a collection of Adrian Vinchell's work from 1985 to 1996.

BARCLAYS

Bedrooms for cells as floating hotel is turned into a prison

Britain's first floating prison. soon to be towed across the Atlantic from New York City where it has been used as a drug rehabilitation centre, once housed workers extending the Falklands Islands' airport.

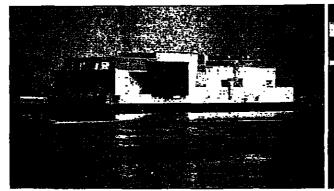
The "flotel" is moored in the River Hudson while negotiations continue with the Prison Service, which plans to ease overcrowding by using the vessel to hold around 500 prisoners. It is expected to be moored in Portland harbour in Dorset.

Bedrooms would become cells, each with their own lavatory and washing facilities. Existing communal facilities would be converted for prison use.

on the top deck, surrounded by a 20ft-high fence. Any prison-er scaling it would face a 70ft

The ship would be connected to mains water, electricity and drainage. Because it could be moved when no longer required, it would not need planning permission, only the willingness of the harbour authorities and the borough council for it to operate.

The plan to move 500 prisoners from jails in and around Manchester and Liverpool to the prison ship has outraged peand families of inmates face round trips of nearly 600 miles to make fortnightly visits, cost-ing up to £100,000 a month in public money for their rail



Mod cons: A giant prison ship in use in New York and, right, a communal area of another typical floating prison

fares. Paul Cavadino, chairman fraught state and it will greatly of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said the long journeys would unreduce the quality of the visit," he said. "Prisoners released dermine prisoners' relationships with their families. "When without family support are six

families arrive they will be in a times more likely to re-offend soon after their release." Prison staff said that moving prisoners a long distance was a threat to security and was an im-

portant factor in the riots at Strangeways and other jails in 1990. Bev Lord, deputy chairmoor this ship?"

Ministers are said to have approved the plan after prison officials inspected the ship, the Resolution, on Christmas Eve. A Prison Service spokesman

said there was great pressure on jails in the North-west but no fi-nal decisions had been taken on which prisoners would be placed aboard the ship. We are still seeking to ac-

quire the vessel," he said. "As to exactly where such inmates might be from, it is too early to say at this stage.' The plan is likely to encounter local opposition in

Dorset on both aesthetic and environmental grounds.

Bob Beare, deputy mayor of

borough council, said: "I have never seen such a monstrosity in all my life. It is not going to do much for our tourist trade." The planning committee had not been given a chance to

discuss the plan, he added. Conservationists are concerned that the ship, with all its potential sewage problems, is due to be moored in a harbour which is a special area for conservation.

English Nature describes the harbour as being one of Britain's most important sites of marine wildlife. Because it is an enclosed harbour on the warm south coast, with particularly fine sediments, it is home to a range of anenomes and rare underwater plants normally found Weymouth and Portland only in the Mediterranean.

Oil fever fuels new war over Falklands

James Cusick

The prospect of the Falkland Islands becoming one of the world's oil-rich clite communities may have contributed to the Argentine government's renewal of sovereignty claims.

As a dozen of the world's leading oil companies explore potential oil fields around the South Atlantic British colony, where the deposits may be oneand-a-half times the size of those in the North Sea, President Carlos Menem has issued a statement asserting that said: "We have no doubt of our Britain should consider sharing

President Menem said that by the year 2000 he hoped "we will Falklands. There see the Argentine flag flying in to our position." the islands, either by itself or that would be a step forward.

Although no firm geological

data has confirmed the presence of economically viable quantities of oil, this has not stopped the island's 2,400 residents from making plans about how their resources will be marshalled. During the licensing organi-

sation period, the Falklands government estimated potential earnings from two hypothetical fields coming on stream. Yields of 250 million and 500 million barrels were forecast. This would net the islands an average of £1.1bn a year over a 20year period, the equivalent of £483,653 for every man, woman and child in the islands. Crucial to President's Men-

em's timetable is the fact that the revenue from oil, if any is found, would begin to flow in Just as potential oil wealth

eroded traditional ways of life in the Orkneys and the Shetland isles, so it appears to have af-fected the Falkland islanders. Already the islands' economy has been overheated by the

£20m annual income from fishing licences granted around the island's ocean territory. Once thought to be a poor and remote community, they are now technically rich.

Control by Whitehall has eased since the Falklands War in 1982. The old dual masters. the powerful Falkland Islands

Company and the Foreign Of-fice have been replaced by a

semi-autonomous government The sheep, all 750,000 of them, are still there. But the population no longer describe themselves as sheep farmers. Fewer than 450 now live outside the capital, Stanley.

The British government and the Falkland islanders themselves will have been unimpressed by President Menem's comment. A spokeswoman for Foreign Office rejected any idea of dual sovereignty and sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. We are not prepared to discuss any change over the Falklands. There is no change

But while the British govalongside other flags." He ernment says it does not intend added: "If the Argentine flag to change its view of the Falk-flies alongside the British flag, lands, the people of the Falklands may be planning to change their view of Britain.

Although the islanders are still grateful for the intervention of the Task Force in 1982, which ended the attempt by the then Argentine leader, General Galtieri, to retake the "Malvinas", there may be a diplomatic feud between the islands and the mother country should oil

The islands' council, the eight-person body that decides all policy, except defence and foreign affairs, has recently formally offered to pay the £67m annual running costs of Mount Pleasant, the 2,000-strong gar-rison near the former 1982 military airport. This sum remains Britain's

sole financial contribution to the colony. When the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, visits the Falklands early in the New Year, as part of the celebrations to mark the 164th anniversary of Britain's format adoption of the islands, he will bring with him a Treasury de-mand for the Falklands figure to be agreed - crucially, before

Despite the old British convention that dependent terri-tories are entitled to the wealth generated by their own resources, another Falklands' war. this time involving legions of international lawyers, could be in prospect.



Built from scrap and held up with rivets, the tin can home finds a place in history

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

They were cold in winter and hot in summer, but the people who lived in Britain's "tin can" homes loved them. Now one of the last of the prefab houses made from scrapped Second World War aircraft is to be taken down and reassembled as a museum exhibit.

Utilitarian and unacknowledged for most of its 45-year lifetime, the B2 prefab bungalow finally

gained the attention of English Heritage and the last of the line is to be saved. Aircraft metal was melted down in 1947-48 to make 70 prefab bungalows at Cam.

near Dursley. Gloucestershire. Elsie Fowler. whose home has been chosen to represent the genre, moved in when it was built in 1949 and has lived there ever since.

Her "temporary" home was erected in a few days with rivets to hold together the tin walls and roof. Now all the other houses are to be

demolished to make way for new brick bungalows on the same site. But her former home will become a major exhibit at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings at

Bromsgrove in the Midlands. 'I am thrilled to think that it is my house which will be taken to the museum," said Mrs Fowler, who has moved into a residential home. Quedgeley, Gloucester, "I remember thinking that it was a nice house when we moved in. They were cool in winter

and warm in summer but

The original living room coal fire is still intact, as are the cooker, the clothes boiler and the metal kitchen sink. Both bedrooms are just as they were when she moved in with her husband Alfred.

When her prefab was built. it was supposed to be a temporary home lasting a maximum of 15 years. Stroud council, which owns the building, agreed to donate it to the museum after English Heritage decided the houses

which should be remembered. The prefabs at Cam, and

another 30 at nearby Cashes Green, which are also being replaced, are thought to be the last authentic wartime bungalows of their kind. The council chairwoman. Margaret Nolder, once lived

in an identical prefab house. across the valley in Dursley. She said: "Everything was made of metal - the walls, the roof, even the bedroom wardrobe. They were blooming cold. I can tell you,

but the residents love them Many are sorry to see the tin homes go. Mrs Fowler says she will visit the museum

if she is up to the trip. English Heritage first honoured prefabricated bungalows a year ago when it recommended 17 asbestoshuilt homes in a Birmingham suburb for architectural listing. Prefabs were a response to a desperate postwar housing shortage and though intended as temporary many were not demolished until the 1970s.

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Cardinal accuses Labour of leaning on pro-life MPs

Political Correspondent

Politicians and churchmen were embroiled in a new row over abortion last night as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland accused Labour of pressurising anti-abortion MPs to keep quiet about their views. In response, Labour's Clare Short accused the Scottish Catholics of doing the same thing to prevent MPs from

speaking out in favour of choice on the issue. The new controversy will further inflame the issue, which anti-abortion activists are determined to highlight during

the general election campaign. The newly formed Pro-Life Alliance Party is planning to field candidates in areas where no representative of any other party is prepared to speak against abortion. Its leaders

say they would like to contest 50 seats. Last weekend the head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Basil

Hume, described abortion as "a great evil in our society", and said the church would never change its attitude to it. Cardinal Thomas Winning, his Scottish equivalent, added yesterday that as Labour was busically pro-abortion, MPs who

were not in line with its views were under pressure. Tony Blair's stance on abortion is that while he is not in favour of it, he believes it is a

matter for individual MPs. Cardinal Winning said: "It's not Tony Blair's private opinion about abortion, it's the perception of the Labour Party's attitude towards abortion, which

is very strongly pro-abortion and always has been. "I have had too many Labour



Labour MPs under pressure

MPs tell of the pressures they are under to go along with the party line and if they didn't, they would lose their sponsorship

pressure on them to be proabortion. he said. Ms Short, Labour's overseas aid spokeswoman, has accused the Catholic Church of alienating a whole generation of women by failing to face up to the problems of sex. She said

vesterday that the cardinal's views were "very sad".
"We know that the Catholic Church in Scotland has traditionally exerted unfair pres-sure on MPs on this issue. In the Labour Party we argue over these issues. We have a policy on these issues and we have an absolute right to conscience for Labour MPs and that is how

from the trade unions - I can vouch for that. There is great

it should be," she said. A Labour spokeswoman said: "The issue ... should be a matter of individual conscience and not party politics."
Polity Toyabee, page 11

West Bank L

West Bank breakthrough: As Israel agrees to quit holy city, Palestinians prepare to up their demands

Hebron deal ends months of wrangling

Jerusalem

After months of nit-picking negotiation, false optimism and premature predictions, Israel and the Palestinians finally agreed vesterday on the terms of Israel's redeployment in Hebron, the last West Bank town under occupation.

David Bar-Illan, a senior adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. said last night: "The agreement is practically finalised. We expect a meeting between the two leaders within 24 hours to tie up any loose ends."

The summit between Mr Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader. Yasser Arafat, could probably have taken place last night. But the Prime Minister did not want to leave the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, where MPs were voting on the third reading of a contentious 1997 budget.

The two leaders will initial the deal, which will then be submitted later this week to the Israeli cahinet, where Mr Netanvahu faces the threat of a revolt by at least one-third of the 18 right-wing and religious ministers. As a sop to coalition back-benchers, the Prime Minister will also present the agreement to the Knesset for debate.

The Israeli troops may redeploy, however, immediately after the cabinet has endorsed the terms. They do not have to be ratified by parliament.

Mr Netanyahu's majority is not at risk. Labour and the leftwing Meretz opposition parties. the fathers of the Oslo breakthrough, have announced that they will vote for the Hebron

The expected abstentions, authority. No Prime Minister area from guerrilla raids.

relishes being beholden to the opposition for major policy

Two senior Likud ministers, the former general Ariel Sharon and Benny Begin, son of the Likud party's founder, Menachem Begin, have come out against the deal. So has Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff, who ran on a joint list with Likud in last May's elections. Four ministers and 14 dissenting coulition backbenchers stayed away when a maverick right-wing no-confidence motion on the Hebron talks was put to a vote on Monday.

Mr Begin, the Minister of Science, explained his opposition to The Independent last night: "Any areas relinquished to the PLÓ immediately become safe havens for terrorists. Arafat has violated numerous major articles of the Oslo agreement. I don't want further experiments that hand over our security to PLO terrorist sub-contractors.

The new Hebron agreement sticks to the basic pattern of the

Jets attack Hizbollah

Nabatiyeh (Reuter) - Israeli planes raided suspected guerrilla targets in south Lebanon last night shortly after a guerrilla attack on two Israeli army posts, guerrilla and pro-Israeli militia sources said.

A Hizbollah spokesman in Beirut said the air attack targeted the Jabal Sojoud area in Iqlim al-Toufab ridge, which is used by the pro-Iranian guerrillas to attack Israeli forces occupying a border zone to the south. About 1,000 Israeli or hostile voting by his own col-leagues in the Likud party will. troops hold the south Lebanon zone, set up by Israel in 1985 however, dent Mr Netanyahu's to protect its northern border

deal negotiated by Shimon Peres's Labour administration a year ago. Mr Netanyahu claimed, to scepticism on both sides of the Knesset this week, that he had succeeded in strengthening security provi-sions for the town's 450 Jewish settlers in 10 particulars.

Israeli troops will evacuate 80-85 per cent of the disputed holy city, traditionally seen as the burial place of Abraham, the common ancestor of Jews and Arabs. They will stay in the remaining 15-20 per cent to protect the settlers. All but 15,000 of the 150,000 Arab residents will come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority and the protection of the Palestinian police.

The agreement provides for a buffer zone around the Jewish quarter, where Palestinian police will be limited to shortrange automatic weapons. The height of new Palestinian building around the enclaves will be restricted to prevent sniping. The Arab town council will not have any control over building inside the Jewish areas.

Israeli and Palestinian forces will mount joint patrols. Israel also reserves the right to conduct hot-pursuit and pre-emptive raids inside the Palestinian areas. However, officials admit that similar provisions in other evacuated towns have not been implemented. They are unlikely to be invoked in Hebron either. The key to success or failure will be the degree of trust that grows up between the respective security services.

Last night, İsraeli officials were predicting a compromise on the Palestinians' last-minute demand for a role in the security around the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine which is sacred to both Jews and Muslims. The original agreement left security around the tomb exclusively in Israeli hands.



Hurdles block way to final peace

Eric Silver

Once the Hebron redeployment is out of the way, Israel and the Palestinians will present competing shopping lists for continuing the shambling Oslo

The negotiations promise to be as slow, as grudging and as volatile as those over Hebron the City of the Patriarchs which dragged on for nine months beyond the March redeployment deadline.

An Israeli political science professor, Yaron Ezrahi. has dubbed Oslo a "peace of attrition". Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat seem bent on proving him right.

Each leader is determined to extract the maximum advantage

sceptical constituency that needs to be convinced that he is not selling out. Since Mr Netanyahu's coalition of rightwing and religious parties came to power last June, there has been little of the goodwill, or the enthusiasm, that carried the previous Labour Government through recurrent crises.

At the top of the Palestinian agenda is a further Israeli redeployment from rural areas on the West Bank which remained under Israel's military supervision after the two previous withdrawals. This evacuation ought to have started in September 1996, but in practice nothing moved.

The "Oslo II" agreement, exactly one year earlier, estab-

for the lowest price. Each is lished the principle of further looking over his shoulder at a withdrawals, but left the details to be negotiated. Mr Arafat has tried to link the Hebron deal to a timetable for the West Bank villages. The next few weeks will prove whether he succeeded.

The Palestinians are also clamouring for the release of about 6,000 Arab security prisoners, including a handful of women, still in Israeli jails. Mr Netanyahu has undertaken gradually to free all those who have not murdered Israelis. The Palestinians want Israel

to fulfil its pledge to open a "safe passage" route for Palestinian traffic between the autonomous regions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The black-and-white signs have been in place for two years, but the Israelis have not worked out how to allow vehicide bombers to get into Israel. Lower down the list, the Palestinians want to operate an airport in the Gaza strip. Up to now, Israel has stood by its right under the Oslo accords to control the Palestinian borders. If the airport is to open, Israel will need to be sure it does not serve as an arms gateway. Similar reservations apply to a new

build in Gaza. On their side, the Israelis are insisting that Mr Arafat extradite Palestinian gunmen who attack Israelis and shelter under the Palestinian flag in Jericho or Gaza, Palestinian spokesmen maintain that Oslo allows them to arrest and try the offenders themselves, which they have

port the Palestinians want to

ing Mr Arafat to repudiate the clauses in the 1964 Palestinian National Covenant, which call for the destruction of the Jewish state. The PLO leader has said since 1993 that the clauses were null and void, but the Israeli right is not satisfied.

More langibly, Israel is demanding that the Palestinian Authority disarm the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Popular Front militias, which persist in waging the old "armed struggle" from within Palestinian territory.

And after that, the two sides can get down to negotiating the final status" of Jerusalem and the 127 West Bank and Gaza Jewish settlements; compensation for the Palestinian refugees of the 1948 and 1967 wars and Palestinian sovereignty.

significant shorts

Rebels in Peru Samper renew call to thanks the

Rebels who stormed the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima. Peru last month and took hundreds of people hostage denied they were terrorists and renewed demands that their jailed comrades be freed.

of state, where thousands of children are killed by starvation," said the rebel from inside the compound. He urged reporters to go to prisons where rehel prisoners are held, saying conditions there were equal to a death

The Peruvian President. Alberto Fujimori, said he would consider granting safe passage out of the country to rebels holding hostages in the Japanese ambassador's house if they release the captives

Deng in hospital

China's paramount leader. Deng Xiaoping, was hospitalised for emergency treatment last week. Hong Kong's Sing Tao Daily newspaper reported on Tuesday. The report, quoting Peking sources, did not say what the 92-year-old patriarch was treated for, or when. AP - Hong Kong

Court backs mother's visits

A British woman embroiled in a child custody battle with her estranged Malaysian husband obtained a Muslim court order that permiss her to visit her son without interference from the father, her Muslim name of Aishah Jane Abdullah, alleged that Ismail Ariffin physically abused her recently when she visited their DI-month-old son, Sunni Sazali. Reuter -

Ki El 21

free comrades little people Colombian President Ernesto

Samper gave thanks to the "little people below" and the "Lord above" for keeping him in power during 1996. despite an onslaught of scandals. Mr Samper weathered a storm of protest "What we have is terrorism after allegations that he financed his 1994 election campaign with millions of dollars from the powerful Cali drug carteL

"With my hand on my heart. I can say it was the little people below and the Lord above that maintained the president and the government this year," Mr Samper said. Reuter - Bogota

Diplomats avoid charges

An official from Belarus arrested for punching a police officer in the face and a Russian accused of trying to start his car while drunk were freed after New York police learned they were diplomats. police said. AP - New York

China gains from BSE fear

Fears over Britain's mad cow disease have sent Chinese beef exports soaring as Hong Kong and South-east Asian markets search for alternative sources of supply, the China Daily said. Beef exports were up 43 per cent compared with the same period of 1995.

Reuter – Peking

Fresco thief

caught in act German tourist Manfred Jane Brummit, also known by Lehmann, 66, was arrested using a hammer to break free frescoes from the ancient city of Ephesus in Turkey. He was released pending trial on charges of attempting to smuggle out ancient artefacts. AP - Selcuk, Turkey



open the door of a getaway car and shot dead one of the robbers when he attempted to escape the scene with two hostages

Photograph Jose Luis Magna/AP Photograph Jose Luis Magna/AP

EU tells Milosevic to recognise polls

Associated Press Peter Greste

Belgrade — Europeans yesterday pressed President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia to declare whether he would reverse his policy and recognise opposition victories in local elections. France warned of isolation if he

Diplomats from Britain, the Netherlands, Italy and the European Union presented a request to the foreign ministry for Mr Milosevic to answer the findings of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The OSCE declared that the

opposition had won elections in 4 communities, including those in Serbia's two largest cities. Belgrade and Nis. The annulment of those elec-

tion results has led to daily protests, the biggest challenge to the Serbian leader since he

The diplomats said they had the impression that the foreign ministry had accepted what the OSCE said. But there was no word from Mr Milosevic, and it is believed that the foreign ministry's attitude is not necessarily a clue to his approach.

huge street party including alarm clocks and a cacophony of bells which were to toll for Mr Milosevic on the stroke of midnight. The street spectacle took advantage of Belgrade's traditional enthusiasm for celebrating the New Year to help maintain the cuthusiasm of Zajedno's supporters whose ranks have dwindled since sub-zero weather set in a week ago. It is also a way round an interior ministry ban on marches that

disrupt traffic. To avoid violence, the independent news agency Beta re-ported that Zajedno had called refrain from the custom of shooting in the air.

The dispute has sparked six weeks of mass demonstrations in Belgrade and other towns from students. The street protests, which at-

tracted up to a quarter of a mil-The opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition planned to press home its message with a lion people at their height, remained peaceful until the ruling Socialist party brought thousands of supporters to a counter-rally in Belgrade on Christmas Eve.

The ensuing clashes between rival supporters left one man dead and at least 50 injured. They include one man with a gunshot wound to the head who was reported still to be in a critical condition.

Sarajevo (Reuter) — Bosnian Serbs are holding up the deliv-ery of some 700,000 letters and parcels destined for Serbcontrolled territory. Serb leaders, reluctant to recognise the authority of a single Bosnian state. refuse to accept the mail which on its supporters not to bring has piled up at Sarajevo's main firearms into the city and to post office over the past year.

The ruling party is pulling out all the stops in an election it has no chance of losing, writes Stephen Vines

Singapore tries to induce feelgood factor

I am not sure which editions of British newspapers are deliv-ered to Singapore but we have it on the authority of Lee Kuan Yew, the country's elder statesman, that the entire British press is supporting JB Jevaret-nam, the leader of the opposi-

tion Workers' Party, in tomorrow's general election. Mr Lec's words are gospel in these parts, so there can be no doubt of the veracity of his statement that the British media is backing the Workers' Party.

As the sole British newspaper representative present when Mr Lee made these remarks, I must admit to having felt a tad self-conscious. Could it be that while I was toiling under the tropical sun. The Independent leader writers back in London were throwing the weight of this august organ behind the ami-able Mr Jeyaretnam?

Mr Lec was speaking in the heat of an election campaign and strange things tend to get said at these times, never stranger than the remarks uttered by Goh Chok Tong, Mr Lee's successor as Prime Minister.

Yet, even in his exalted position, Mr Goh, who has problems bringing his sentences to an end, worries about becoming "a much smaller man". This is a problem because Mr Goh is unusually tall and fears being Liang Hong of the Workers' Party gains a seat in parliament. Should that happen Mr Goh says, "my word in future will have less weight both interna-tionally as well as in Singapore". The ruling People's Action Party (PAP) accuses Mr Tang of Chinese chauvinism because of alleged remarks questioning ucated colleagues.
In the past few days there has

been a sudden absence of parking tickets on unlawfully parked cars. This is unusual in law-enforcement obsessed Singapore. Meanwhile, citizens are getting a barrage of letters confirming subsidy payments, waiving land taxes and generally offering all sorts of good news. again, remarkably, in the few days before polling. But electors have also been threatened with the withdrawal of government services if they voted for the opposition.

Surely the PAP cannot be trying to induce a feelgood factor? This suspicion may well be the genesis of one of the many jokes doing the rounds: "How many Singaporeans does it take to change a light hulb? - Answer:

is getting brighter all the time." Not, however bright enough

to deter Singaporeans from turning out at opposition rallies in their tens of thousands. Bearing in mind that there will be only 765,332 voters in this election (like many things in Singapore, voting is compulsory) these numbers are very large indeed. Despite the massive turnout

the opposition rallies have become largely phantom events. Tight camera work by the television news broadcasters gives the impression of sparse attendance. In reality, not only do the size of the crowds dwarf those attending PAP rallies but their enthusiasm is amazing. This enthusiasm is unlikely to

be translated into an avalanche of opposition parliamentary scats. Even if they win half the

language educated cabinet none, because there is no need. popular vote, they will not get sense in the way that it carves members over their Chinese-ed. According to the PAR Singapore more than 14 seats in the 81-seat up centres of opposition suplegislature.

A giance at the map of electoral houndaries gives some idea of the creativity the PAP has shown in preparing for the election which it has no chance of loosing. One constituency meanders so ingeniously around the island that it defies the laws of geography but makes perfect

up centres of opposition sup-port. Other boundaries have strange channels in their midst.

The real danger of the Singapore election is that it will become a model for other governments attached to the legal niceties of elections but unhappy with the unpredictability "the free vote".



the predominance of English-



An audience with the Waltz King

It's that time of the year when everything in the world seems to be swinging in three-four time. As the Vienna Philharmonic prepares to give its traditional New Year's Day Concert of waltzes, polkas and marches, the late Johann Strauss grants Piers Burton-Page an exclusive interview

he house out in the Leopoldstadt, not far from the Prater, is replete with imperial solidity. The varnish on the dark wooden floors gleams brilliantly, the furniture is large and heavy, the hangings and drapes all velvet and plush. Ignoring the branch of McDonald's nearby, I ring the bell and am shown into the music room. He is already there: full head of hair slightly greying, self-consciously handsome, smoking a cigar, slightly nervous. In fact, wellpreserved after all these years.

There are three basic questions one has to ask Johann the Younger, as he hates to be called. In order: Wine? Women? Song? It is not a good start. "As any Viennese will tell you, there is nothing wrong with the good life. Why are you British always so puritanical?" But the three wives? "Jetty's death was a catastrophe. Angelica was simply ... unfaithful. And Adele is my muse." On cue, Frau Strauss brings coffee
- Blue Mountain, if not Blue Danube. She is evidently much younger than her husband, evidently worships him, and is evidently Jewish. Some bulls have to be taken by the horns.

Yes, we met in the middle. I was a Catholic. She was a Jew. Now we are both Protestants. And not Austrians either: for the difficulties to be overcome we both had to become citizens of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha." So we fall to talking about Austria, and the Beethoven! Brahms! Bruckner! Surely a

GIACOMO PUCCII

2 Jan – 1 Feb 7.15pm

11 - 15 Fe5 7.30pm

lorwich Theatre Royal

18 - 22 Feb 7.15pm

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25 Feb - 11 Mar 7.15om

Nottingham Theatre Royal

4 - 8 March 7.15pm

Manchester

Palace Theatre

Anniversary

SEASON

lutterfly, Faistafforly

Leeds Grand Theatre

Austrians. Would be call himself a patriot? "Hardly." And then silence. The tangled web of Habsburg politics has even the Strausses enmeshed. But the question will not go away. "I was Imperial Court Music Director, kaiserlich und königlich – my lovalties are clear." I gently remind Herr Strauss that it was not always so.

"1848, you mean? An aberration! Youth must needs have dalliance - it was my means of getting back at my illustrious father, also Johann, also a musician. We were on opposite sides. But enough said. Politics! Art and politics shouldn't mix, ever!" The famous Strauss brow furrows. "I know what happened in this city after I died. I know about the wars. I know about Hitler. I know about anti-Semitism. I know that Austrian complicity is not exercised even yet - as 1996 slides uneasily into 1997, and the memory of Dollfuss and Schüsnigg and Waldheim is still strong. I have Jewish blood in me; the Nazis forged my grandfather's marriage certificate to hide the fact. Nothing can surprise me any more. But it wasn't all Roses from the South in my day, either... At this point, though, Adele Strauss lays a firm but gentle hand on her husband's shoulder. His reddening visage slowly lightens. He stares distantly out of the window and hums, waiting for the next question. The Perpetuum Mobile, is it?

Immortality seems a suitable topic.

composer of such fluency as Johann Strauss, with such a tenacious grasp of music's fundamentals and appeal, would have wanted to enter the Pantheon alongside the immortals?

"Self-expression is best left to those with an inflated idea of the Self! I know my limitations - except when I don't know them. Besides, surely you know that I had designs on the opera house. Unfortunately, my operas turned out to be operatias. At the end I was even diversifying into ballet. Aschenbrödel – Cinderella to you – practically killed me."

But the three Bs? "Bruckner worshipped me, I'm told. Even though he was a man for the Ländler rather than the waltz. That's an Upper Austrian dance, three-four again, slower, statelier - very Brucknerian. Orig-inally they danced it with hobnailed boots on. And they yodelled as well, sometimes. Very Brucknerian again! Well, he was basically a peasant, wasn't he?" The suspicion of a leer curling above the Straussian moustache is not a pleasant sight.

"Brahms was a different matter. He worshipped me, too. But we were friends. He came regularly to my villa in Bad Ischl in the Salzkammergut. In fact, there's a photograph of us there together. Fetch it please, Adele." And sure enough, there they are: on the veranda, formally dressed, the mountains in the background, the one tall and unabashed next to the heavy.

corpulent and very hairy composer of the a huge collection. Did you know, by the Liebeslieder Waltzes but also of the German

Requiem.

"He died only a year or two before I did.
We were very sad. May I tell you a story? My wife had a decorated paper fan for the heat in the Viennese summer. There was a little musical quotation from the Blue Danube on it. One day, Brahms saw it and asked permission to add something. And do you know what he wrote? Leider nicht von Johannes Brahms. 'Sadly, not by Johannes Brahms.' How touching! But imagine if I'd done that to the German Requiem." A throaty chuckle, followed by a fit of coughing. Maybe the years have taken their toll after all.

How has the Strauss family flag been kept flying all these years, then? "Well, there was a whole army of brothers and cousins for a start. I had to watch Joseph and Eduard like hawks. There was a grandson - I forget his name - and there is even a direct descendant in Vienna today, another Eduard. But he has seen sense and become a lawyer.

So is it technology to the rescue? "I've heard an old record of someone who may be Brahms playing the piano. I was alive long enough to hear talk of cylinders and 78s. Then newspapers, radio and television - I owe them a lot. A shame that copyright only lasts for 70 years after one's death, what with all the new CDs - I have a new waltz...

way, there's a company with the wonderful name of Marco Polo that announced seven years ago they would record every note I ever wrote? And they have! Even the Blue Danube with chorus, and old Joseph Weyl's terrible verses. They're about to start on my father's work. Personally, I'm hoping soon for a Strauss CD-Rom. And perhaps even my own Web site. Do you think Hot Java would be a good name for a new

Polka? A bit advanced, perhaps." And so to that concert, broadcast live from the Musikverein on New Year's Day, with its audience of millions around the world. What does the Waltz King make of what has now become an established ritual?
"Γm all in favour, especially of having it on television. And Γm sure this new lad Brian Kay will be every bit as on the ball for the BBC as dear old Richard Baker was. But it's a pretty spurious tradition, you know: the Philharmonic only started the concert this century for a money-spinner, long after my demise. The Vienna Phil were very iffy about my music in my lifetime – just as they were with dear old Bruckner, to name but one. I blame the critics - Eduard Hanslick, and all his tribe. He wrote a book called The Beautiful in Music, but he couldn't recognise it at 100 paces. It was depressing for a while, but the Whirligig of Time and all that. In fact, that would be a good title for

Indeed. The very titles of the Strauss family waltzes are enough to set the blood racing. Where did they come from? "Aha! Well spotted! Most of them were born out of desperation on press day for the printed programme at the Speri Rooms or the Sofiensaal. I scoured the newspapers for ideas, or looked at the Vienna street map, or made something up that had no meaning at all. Tritsch-Tratsch, that sort of thing. And, of course, the Danube never was blue, not even then."

At that moment, the mobile phone that has lain unobtrusively alongside the vener-able Bösendorfer piano in the Strauss music room springs into full digital life. The Waltz King seizes it with alacrity, gabbles into it for a moment or two in his still incomprehensible Viennese dialect, and is already calling for his camel-haired ankle-length coat. "Forgive me, I must dash. I am talking to America via satellite. Adele will show you out." Outside, I hear the jingle of the harness as the waiting fiacre, blinds down, bears off along the snow-lined Vienna streets the man the Austrians seem to have crowned their new Emperor of Music.

The Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Day Concert, presented by Brian Kay, is broad-cast live on BBC Radio 3 today at 10.15am (with Part 2 also on BBC2 from 11.15am). During the interval, David King plays Bruck-ner in Piers Burton-Page's 'The Linz Version'

A calendar of the Arts in 1997

James Aufenast selects the most promising events of the year ahead. Mark them in your diaries, or miss out





Jack Dee joins the Leicester Comedy Festival in February



'The English Patient' In March



Rachel Whiteread exhibits at the



Pianist Alfred Brendel plays at the Edinburgh Festival in August



A week of Schubert in November

works". Still lives with more scraps of newsprint than even Picasso could muster. Royal Academy (23). Theatre: The Homecoming. Roger Michell revives Pinter's classic family drama, with Lindsay Duncan. National Theatre (23). Opera: Palestrina. Long-awaited British stage premiere of Hans Pfitzner's 1917 epic about the Renaissance composer and the redeeming power of music. Thomas

TEBRUARY

Comedy: Jack Dee and Sandra Bernhard head up Leicester's comedy fest - the biggest and best in the UK. Various venues (7-16) Classical: Pierre Boulez opens R3's pre-Millennial "Sounding the

Century" project, conducting Stravinsky's Rite with the BBC SO. RFH, SBC, London (16). Theatre: Ivanov. 1997 is Ralph Fiennes's year, starting with this rare piece of Chekhov, directed by Jonathan Kent in a reprise of the partnership that gave us the Hacknev Hamlet. Almeida, London (18).

Classical: Mstislav Rostropo vich marks his 70th birthday with five concerts with the LSO. Barbican Hall, London (8, 11, 13, 16, 25). Film: Ondaatje's English Patient would seem unfilmable, were it not for Ralph Fiennes (again) and Kristin Scott-Thomas.(14).

Theatre: King Lear. Ian Holm braves the storm, Sir Richard Eyre directs. National Theatre (27). Book: Blake Morrison's As If. More family matters from the

TOTOTOTOTO APRIL

Opera: The Damnation of Faust. People will persist in trying to stage Berlioz's unstageable Faustian fantasy. This time it's the turn of American maverick, David Alden. London Coliseum (7).

Visual Arts: "The Object in British Art of the Eighties and Nineties". Shorthand for "inaccessible". Works by Hirst. Whiteread.

Kapoor. Hayward Gallery, London. Dance: Ricochet Dance, Unusually, run by dancers. Including

De Frutos. QEH, London.

WWWWW

Opera: Tarmhäuser. Paul Daniel bids farewell to Opera North (en tonte to ENO) with Wagner's magical mystery tour around the Mons Veneris. Leeds Grand (3).

Musical: The Fix. New musical by John Dempsey. echoing. 4ssassins in its shooting down of US pol-ities. Donmar Warehouse, London, Opera: Verdi Festival. Reval Opera House, London.

Pop: The Fugees. The Score was an original take on rap; you could listen to it. Fifties R&B mixed with De La Soul. Wemblev Arena.

at the Royal Festival Hall *33333333*33

Dance: Mark Morris's Edinburgh hit L'Allegro... comes to the ENO - at last London gets to see

Mark Morris. Coliscum (5). Visual Arts: Ellsworth Kelly American colour-field work reminiscent of early modernists/New York school: quietly beautiful but spatially immense paintings. First major retrospective since the early

1980s. Tate. Theatre: Amy's View Richard Eyre directs Judi Deach in David Hare's latest, Royal National

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directs. Royal Opera House (28).

Visual Arts: Mondrian from the The Hague. Tate. London. Dance: Kirov. Return of the St Petersburgers with a happily more varied programme including Don Quixote and a selection of Diaghilev ballets. Coliscum Musical: Oklahoma. Oh, what a beautiful day (we hope). Open.-lir

Theatre, Regent's Park (24). Classical: James MacMillan. Innovative series celebrating innovative young Scots composer. including a sculpture collaboration.

Visual Arts: John Singer Sargent. Many a flattering portrait of the English aristocracy including canvases on loan from the Musee D'Orsay and the Chicago Art Institute, Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Festival: Galina Gorchakova, Bryn Terfel, Alfred Brendel, Pierre Boulez are expected, as are Lucia di Lammoor with Charles Mackerras and Andrea Rost, Peter Stein with Chekhov and Stephane Braunschweig with Shakespeare.

SEPTEMBER

gious uncertainty, self-obsession and death. How cheerful. Major preoccupations now as well as at the end of the 19th century. Barbican, London.

Theatre: King Lear. Sir Peter Hall drives Alan Howard mad on the heath, in repertory with April de Angelis's revamp of Playhouse Creatures. Old Vic. London. Film: Temptress Moon. Chen Kaige's follow-up to Farewell My

Concubine. More flagellation of

little boys expected.

setting from Matthew Bourne and Adventures in Motion Pictures in a follow-up to their record-breaking Swan Lake. Piccadilly Theatre,

Visual Arts: British Symbolists as Part of a European Tradition. IIIdefined desire in Rossetti and sexuality in Beardsley never seemed quite British and here's confirmation. We've been twisted and Furnpean all along. Tate, London. Turner Prize Exhibition: The

shortlist on show. Tare, London.

Jazz: London Jazz Festival. Bringing the best jazz into the capital since Ronnie Scott's death. This year's theme: Austrian Jazz, with the Vienna Art Orchestra.

Visual Arts: Royal Glasgow 136th Annual Exhibition, Best of contemporary Scottish art. Watch out for the tartan. McClellan Galletics, Glasgow.

Classical: Schubert Song Festival. The bicentenary boy celebrated in a week of song-cycles. Imogen Cooper and Andreas Schmidt. RFH, SBC, Landon.

Theatre: Chicago. Another musical at the Donmar. Sam Mendes directs, again, From the writers of Cabaret with a wither hook and fabulously britile score. Film: The Jetsons. Something to take your kids to at Christmas

- or anyone else's. Peter Segal Visual Arts: Stanley Cursites with rurely seen paintings of his Orkney homeland, interesting to compare with avant-gards version of Edinburgh street life Porusi Gollery, Edinburgh,

Bridget J

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Small screen, big star

Never mind Baywatch, never mind the tattooed, soon-tobe-ex-husband. Given the right script, Pamela Anderson could still be a Monroe for our age. By Emma Forrest

Annus Horribilis, Annus Mirabilis

suggested that Pamela Anderson, the oremier blonde sexbomb of the Nineties, find her own Arthur Miller. This was after the Baywatch actress had sealed her engagement to Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee with a tattoo of his name on her ring finger, but before they had a baby, Brandon. It was after she had been photographed saying her vows on a Malibu beach, dressed in a white bikini, and before - though not long before - she filed for divorce.

The society magazine advised her to take up with Saul Bellow. A nice thought, but one can't help recalling the classic line about the Monroe-Miller marriage: "the tragedy of which was that she was

the brains and he was the beauty". If she feels she must now search for cred, a far more suitable literary companion might be Trainspotting's author, Irvine Welsh. Going by the gossip of supermarket tabloids in the United States, at least they share a common interest.

But that's the lovely thing about Pam. She has never wanted to be credible. During her touchingly self-deprecating conversa-tion with Ruby Wax, shown on BBC1 last February, she joked about wanting to play King Lear. Pam knows that she is a star rather than an actress, and women admire her, as they do Sharon Stone, for the obvious joy she feels in being a star: Pam and Sharon look pleased with their achievements, as opposed to your Julias and Winonas, who keep telling us how much they don't

want to be there. Emotionally, her downfall has been an abusive husband who stayed up all night getting out of his mind with his mates while she was trying to get her new-born

Heather Locklear, went public sion from small to big screen just about the physical abuse they had suffered while involved with him. Locklear's life has many

lessons for Pamela. Having left Tommy Lee, the Dynasty starlet is now the villain on Aaron Spelling's Melrose Place and the ghest-paid actress in television.

Pamela does have talent -

enough to get her by. Although she is no Paul Scofield, she is not supposed to be. Like Monroe, she is a nice little comedy actress, which is how she first made it ~ playing "the tool box girl" in the sitcom Home Improvement. It was a niche, but she traded it in for the scarlet swimsuit of Baywatch, which was a return to covers of Playboy. She became as popular a lifeguard as she had been a centrefold and was soon the biggest sex symbol in the world. However, Baywatch has now been axed in America, while Home Improvement is still one of the highest-rated comedies on

American television. Career-wise, Pamela's problems started when she moved to and Donna D'Errico, two vastly the big screen. Her debut, Barb inferior Pam clones who are, Wire, was one of the most nevertheless, hugely popular. unwatchable of all cinema Playboy has turned out Jenny turkeys. The black-rubber-and- McCarthy, another Pam archebig-guns bonanza was not even laughably camp because its fail-ure was so predictable: TV queens generally do flounder on celluloid. Shimmering from her success on Dynasty, Heather Locklear underwhelmed Hollywood with her role in Creature from the Black Lagoon before finding her feet back on the small screen. Farrah Fawcett, the ultimate television princess in Charlie's Angels, still insists on trying her luck in risible Disney comedies, and has consequently vanished from sight. Teri Hatcher And it sounds flippant, but has been wise in not giving up the day job (Lois in The New Adven-

doesn't work. One's good looks don't necessarily translate to celluloid, let alone one's talent.

Pamela Anderson doesn't need Baywatch, but she does need the small screen. There is better garbage out there for her to do. There is no reason why she couldn't make her comeback on Friends, as Brooke Shields did, or get herself her own Aaron Spelling vehicle. Pamela can no longer be a silent icon. She has already done too much Oprah, Ruby Wax, Jay Leno. And she has lived too much. Even if she never acted again, we would still love her, as we do Liz Taylor, for what she has been through. Regardless what she wore on all those of Baywatch being dropped, we have no desire to switch off the real drama. She could just settle into that.

Elizabeth Taylor, however, is in her sixties. She did a lot of good work before becoming a staple of gala dinners and talk shows. It is harder for Pamela because, being a blonde, she is replaceable. Bay-watch produced Gena Lee Nolin type who is making it very big as a host on MTV. Pam must be wondering if she is anything more than "this bair, these lips, that body, those boobs" (which is how Tommy Lee described her).

She can survive without Tommy or the hair, the lips, etc. Her onoff reconciliation with her husband is currently off. If she sticks to her guns, she will consolidate the female support she first won with that charming Ruby Wax interview, and lose those substance abuse rumours for good. Pamela Anderson, more than any girl I've ever seen, could do with son to sleep. Before Pam married unes of Superman): her film Two a haircut. Women in transition cut Tommy, both his ex-girlfriend. Days in the Valley was widely their hair. I think she'd look Bobbi Brown, and ex-wife, panned. The inevitable ascen- rather lovely with a brunette crop.



From centrefold to lifeguard to chat show veteran, Pamela Anderson became the world's foremost sex symbol. But wouldn't that big hair look lovely brunette and cropped?

Sales guide

FASHION
STARTED YESTERDAY
Shirin Cashmere (or 3 weeks, 11 Beauchamp
Place, London SW3 (0171-581 1936).
Certuff 1881 Menswear 36 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 2278)
STARTED MONDAY
Austin Dead beauthy antitymaide.

STARTED MONDAY
Austin Reed branches nationwide.
Betty Jackson into mid-January, 311 Brompton
Road, London SW3.
Biba for 4-5 weeks, 15 Shorts Gardens, London
WC2 (0171-240 co44).
Burton for 4 weeks, West 1 Shopping Centre, 379
Oxford Street, London W1, and all stores
nationwide (0321 28786).
Cashmere Studio 10 Stoane Street, London SW1
(0171-245 911).
Cerruti 1881 womenswear until 31 Dec, 106 New
Bond Street, London W1 (0171-495 5890).
Ciro pearls until 31 Jan. 61a Brumpton Road,
London SW3 (0171-589 5884).

London SW3 (0171-589 5584). Designworks for 3 weeks, 19 Avery Row, London

DKNY Bond Street, London W1.
Dorothy Perkins West 1 Store, 379 Oxford Street,
London W1, and branches nationwide. Empario Armani 1918 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-823 8818) and across London, Sales in Manchester and Glasgow start today.

Etam Nationwide. Giorgio Armani 37 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6232).

(017)-235-6232. Hobbs branches nationwide. Ken Lane until 31 Jan, 30 Burtington Arcade. London SW3 (017)-499-136) and 58 Beauchamp Place. SW3 (017)-584-1985). Monsoon 23 The Market, London WC2, and

Next Nationwide.
Next Nationwide.
Oasis until end of January. 292 Regent Street.
London W1 and branches nationwide.
Red or Dead all London stores. The Soutch House for 2-3 weeks, 2 Brompton Road, London SW1 and stores across London. Simpsons until 25 Jan, Piccadilly, London. Extra

10 per cent off today (offer excludes concessions). ALREADY ON Ghost, Kate Jones, Claudia Sebire, Blazer (Moss Bros Group), Racing Green, Ronit Zilkha

HOMES AND INTERIORS Maples stores nationwide. Ikea 2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5600) and Croydon. Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and Warrington.

STARTED YESTERDAY
Fortnum and Mason 181 Piccadilly, London W1
(0171-734 8040). STARTED MONDAY Debenhams (0171-40\$ 4444). Ferwick for 3 weeks, 63 New Bond Street, London W1, and Brent Cross, Ricemans of

Canterbury, Ferwick of Newcastle, Funbridge Wells, Windsor, York and Leicester. Harvey Nichols Knightsbridge, Landon SW1 and Liberty Regent Street, London W1. Selfridges for about a month, Oxford Street,

British Home Stores nationwide.

STARTED MONDAY Jones Bootmakers branches across London. Pied à Terre 31 Old Bond Street, London W1 and all branches in London, Manchester, Glasgow. Brighton, Brent Cross and Lakeside Shopping Centre (details 0171-499 9204). ALREADY ON

HOMES & INTERIORS STARTED MONDAY

Heal's until 19 Jan. 146 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666) and stores in London and Guildford. The Pier Stores around the country, including King's Read, London SW3.

Royal Worcester Spode 126 Regent St, London W1.

Bridget Jones's Diary

1 January-31 December 1996: A

Total weight lost: 5st 2lb (vg) Total weight gained: 5st 3lb Alcohol units: 3,836 Cigarettes: 5,277 Calories: 11,090,265 (bad) Correct lotters numbers: 42 (vg) Incorrect lotters numbers: 587 (sort of thing that could happen w anyone) Total Instants purchased: 98 Total Instants winnings: £101 Total Instants profit: £3 (Yesss! Yesss! Have beaten system while supporting worthwhile causes in manner of benefactor) 1471 calls: 721 (approx) Valentines: 1 (vg) Christmas cards: 33 (vg) Positive thoughts: 4 (g) Hangover-free days: 4 (vg) Boxfriends: 1 (vg) Number of New Year's Resolutions kept: () .4 quite promising year's

Monday 30 December Flying home from lovely skiing holiday. Cannot believe quantity of food have consumed over festive period. Wonder how much weight it is technically possible to put on in one day? If you are the most fattening things you could think of without being sick or stopping, how long would it take the fat to grow, and how much could be produced at any one time? Therefore how much could be put on in seven days of same?

Humph, Just asked Mark Darcy, who said I had to shut up or will tell air hostess to put me in jump seat.

Anyway, life is going to be completely different when get back. Am not going to smoke or drink and am going to be much more on top of things with Mum. For example am going to tell her Mark Darey and I cannot come to Una and Geoffrey Alconbury's New Year's Day Turkey Curry Buffet in poised and adult manner. Also am going to really take pleasure from just being at home putting photographs in albums instead of going out to 192 all the

Noon Back In flat. Aargh. Terrified re ringing Mum. Last year Mum. Una and Elaine Durcy spent entire time at the Buffet trying to get me and



Mark Darcy off with each other. Mark Darcy says reappearing as successfullymated offspring would be not only intolerable (as we would be like pair of performing seals forced to have sex in front of assembled company etc), but irresponsible since Mum would spontaneously burst like Oscar Wilde with smugness then die, which would detract from festive atmosphere. 12.30 Just called Mum. "Oh hello, darling, how are you?" she trilled casually, apparently

disbelievingly. It was like in a film when someone has thrown a grenade, everyone is tensed for it to go off, and it doesn't. Had Mum finally seen sense, or gone over the edge?

"Anyway, Marjorie couldn't get hold of this hen through the flap so she went in herself and the door locked shut. Well, when Ray came home he couldn't find her anywhere tili he went for the eggs. No, Una's a very selfish, evil

"Mum," I said levelly, trying to be like Mark Darcy and responsible, wondering if I should ring an ambulance could you bring Dad to the telephone, please?

What's going on?" I hissed, when Dad came on the phone. "Oh God," he moaned, quietly.
"What? What?"

"It's Mum and Una. It's Apocalypse Now. They both turned up on Christmas Day in the same purple paisley Jaeger

Aargh, aargh. Is 7 in morning. Have slept through New Year's Eve and missed Mark Darcy date. Is pitch black. Help.

failing to notice my absence for entire Christmas period. "Hang on a tick. Just saying goodhye to Marjoric," She dropped her voice. "You know Ray and Marjorie don t you, darling - they have hen huts. Mariorie was trying to get hold of this special hen for some unknown reason and oooh hang on, the timer's off on the microwave." She then left me sitting on the phone for nine minutes. After spending three minutes velling. Mum, Mum." I put the phone down only to have it ring back immediately. Bridget, Mum hissed

person is Very. Very. Rude. "Mum. about Auntie Una's Turkey Curry Buffet we can't come." I blurted, getting down under the table, ready. "Oh that doesn't matter darling! " she purred. "Daddy and I aren't going, either." I froze, grabbing the table leg.

dangerously, "Putting the phone down on another

two-piece."
Mum grabbed the phone. "Don't exaggerate, Colin. they were Country Casuals seconds. We both bought them together at the mill shop but I saw it first and Una agreed that she wouldn't wear it without checking with me first. Of course, when she walked in I was absolutely livid, and in front of Marjorie - I mean Marjorie's been in the hen hut

and she's a bag of nerves."
The upshot of it is I have to go to Mum and Dad's all day tomorrow for New Year's Day all on my own. Oh no. 1pm Wonder what to do now? Oh yes. Better unpack. 1.15pm Hate the thought of the horrible unpacking. Is bad enough coming home to mad mother without having to unpack. Maybe will have cigarette. No. Mustn't smoke. 1.20pm Mmm. Cigarette is delicious. Now. Where's the photograph album? 1.30pm Is no good. Hate

being in singleton flat all on own. Was so lovely being away in chalet with all people around all the time (even if Yuppie-Sloane Ranger-style lawyers). Dread thought of getting up in morning with no one to fool around with; no using fact that everyone keeps getting into the bathroom before you as excuse for not getting dressed or washed for hours and hours, sitting at kitchen table gossiping. Wish lived in commune with all chums then would never be alone and could muck about having fun all day.

1.45pm Hmm. Maybe will have a little drinky to calm nerves. No. Will go round to Tom's and give him Eric Cantona calendar Christmas present (v amusing-style gift as Tom loves Eric Cantona.) Ooh goody, telephone. 1.50pm Was Tom,

complaining that all he has been given for Christmas is five copies of the Eric Cantona calendar. Oh God. Am going to ring Jude and Shazzer and see if they want to come to

4pm Argor esblurry goofun seeinggirlsagain. Maybe havelittle sleepy now. Oops. 7 o'clock am? pm? Aargh, aargh, Mark Darcy is talking on Ansafone. Oh God. Is 7 in morning. Have slept through New Year's Eve and missed Mark Darcy date. Is pitch black. Help. Cannot find

telephone.
7.30pm Even when all seems darkness is light at end of tunnel. Was not the morning but evening, therefore still time to sober up and go out with Mark Darcy. Also, Jude and Shazzet had marvellous news. Apparently new pill has been invented in America whereby all fat is quickly sent. instead of to fat areas, to colon and converted immediately into poo. Apparently wonder pill will be available here in one month only. Hurrah. We can all look forward to New Year eating exactly what want with perfect figures. All need now is further pills for alcohol units and cigarettes converting hangovers, liver-failure and tar immediately into poo and will be no need whatsoever for New Year's Resolutions any more. Happy 1997 everybody!



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commencing from 19th January to 15th March. All travel must be completed by 19th March 1997.

Long live peace, independence and Schubert

oday is the day of pious hopes after the maudlin reminiscences of the night before. So let us, in optimistic spirit, set out what we would like to see in 1997.

Important things first. We hope everyone decides to listen to all of Schubert's works, as it is his bicentenary this year. A year spent in adoration of Schubert would improve everyone's quality of life, and remind us what can be achieved by someone who died at 31 having written more great songs even than Sir Paul McCartney. We hope Jarvis Cocker brings out a new album, so that at least for a week or two we hear less about Liam Gallagher and the delightful Spice Gals. We hope Princess Diana remarries happily, preferably a fantastically wealthy Latin American salsa dancer, who takes her back to his central American republic, since it is the only way we are going to see an end to that sorry tale, And, towards the more speculative end of the spectrum, we hope England win at least one cricket match before 1997 draws to a close, just to give the Scots, Welsh and Irish a break from English self-pity.

The coming year also contains some more predictable milestones. This is the vear we hand over Hong Kong, our last big imperial possession. The real story, though, is not what will happen to Hong Kong, but what will happen in China. Not just in 1997, but over the next decade, it is important that the world's democratised powers recognise that there is one exceedingly important country where the values of liberal democracy do not hold sway. As economic growth and social change transform China, the dangers of friction are high.

The new year also brings a heavy responsibility to maintain the perilous peace of the Middle East. Yesterday's painstaking movement towards agreement on Hebron means that optimism looks like winning out over pessimism on the first day of this year. We hope Benjamin Netanyahu, Yasser Arafat and the new US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, continue to devote their energies to sustaining and bedding-in peace over the remaining 364 days.

At home, we know at least one event for sure: 1997 is the year of a general election. All elections are described in advance as the most important since the war, or 1906, or whenever, but this one has a better claim than many to real significance. It could mark the end of 18 years of one-party rule; and it falls just before a great treaty-revision conference to set the future course of the European Union.

As yet, we have not decided which party we want to see win the election. This is not indecision or coyness on our part, but firm adherence to the spirit of independence and impartiality of judgement which founded this newspaper. We keep an open mind in our pursuit of the ideal of objective reporting, but that does not mean we will dodge the decision when it comes. Come the day, we will say who we think should run the country. Between now and then, we will set some very particular yardsticks against which we will judge the parties, and party leaders, when the day comes.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the usual issues of tax and economic policy are not the dominant ones. Though important, we believe that there is a remark-



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able degree of consensus on how to run a modern liberal economy in Britain. That does not mean we shall let the parties avoid questions about raising revenue and spending public funds. In passing, we must observe that it reflects poorly on Tony Blair that he and Gordon Brown appear to disagree at this late stage on whether there should be a 50p tax rate on incomes over £100,000 a year. Clearly our record over this past year has been intensely critical of John Major's government but we have reservations about Labour, not least its commitment to the free market. We would feel much happier with Mr Blair and his colleagues if, for example, they signalled clearly their willingness to tackle such vested interests as the Murdoch press. But the big tests for us are not mainly

economic, because the differences

how to bring the élites and the peoples of Europe closer together. Our undemocratic machinery of

between the parties are relatively

minor. The big questions are consti-

tutional. And of those, the first is our

desire to see a government committed

to an active and constructive role in

Europe. This requires the combination

of a basically pro-European orienta-

tion, ruthless defence of the national

interest and hard negotiating skill.

John Major has shown all three in the

past, but he is shackled by the anti-

Europeanism of the majority of his

party. Our concern about the single

currency, and the European "project"

generally, is its imperfectly democratic

construction. We have not yet heard

enough from our politicians about

take stock, and give the people of this country a more fundamental say in how they are governed, and in return to ask them to take some responsibility. That is why we favour transferring power away from Westminster and Whitehall to a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. If, and it is a big if, there is genuine popular desire for an assembly in the North-east or the South-west of England, then they should come into being, too.

Only by mobilising genuine local democracy can we break the back of the quangocracy. This does not mean going back to local councils as they were BT (Before Thatcher); it means experimenting with new ideas, such as those propounded by Michael Heseltine and others, for directly-elected mayors, and compact city executives.

Of course, we hope that one of the consequences of this year's election will be the abolition of the rights of hereditary peers. Some of the more recherché arguments now deployed in their defence only make the case the more convincing. This week Simon Heffer, the Thatcherite writer. published a pamphlet which concluded with the clincher that inheriting a fortune allows "much more influence in society" than inheriting a peerage. Now, that's not an argument most Conservatives would want to push too far. One of the advantages of sweeping out the hereditary peers is that it will start a debate about what kind of parliament we want.

Above all, however, we would like to power needs reform, and we hope the see a national debate about the way we only make one resolution: to rem British people will elect a government elect the House of Commons. In a ber that we are – and so are you.

committed to that change. It is time to sense, the next election will be wasted if it does not produce a clear choice for the electorate about the voting system itself. Indeed, if 1997 is to mark a new direction in Europe, then it may need electoral reform to underpin it - to ensure that the government continues to represent the majority of its citizens. Labour's promise of a referendum on electoral reform is therefore the neglected key to the coming election, and we shall be pressing Mr Blair to tell us more about his reasons for personally opposing change.

The final test is education policy, since the parties' positions on how to improve education tell us almost everything we need to know about their culture. Are they about heading backwards, either to rule by teaching unions, or rule by divisive class systems? Are they about blithe promises of raised standards, or hard commitments to improve discipline and raise aspiration?

Naturally some readers will disagree in some measure with some of the above. One hope, however, we suspect they would all nurture along with us: that the IRA decides, as hinted, to call a pre-election ceasefire, which is then sustained after the election. An end to Northern Ireland violence alone . might be enough to make us feel 1997 had been worthwhile.

Inevitably, we hope for a few other things - that all our readers win the lottery and take out full year's subscriptions, for example, or that someone, somewhere, comes up with a good idea for celebrating the millennium. But we only make one resolution: to remem-

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Europe needs resolution to ban racism

Sir: 1997 is the European Year against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. It also happens to be the year in which the European Treaties are to be amended, and in which one of the proposed amendments would outlaw racial and religious discrimination. Will such a proposal succeed? It seems unthinkable that it should fail, but one member of government - our own - is openly opposed to any competence and of the sphere of the European Court of Justice, while a few others are reluctant to support a "race" amendment but for the moment are sheltering behind the British position.

It is virtually certain that there will, for the first time, be some mention of racism in the Treaty. But much depends on the wording and placing of a new article.

European Community competence would open the way to European legislation and a common standard of protection throughout the Union against discrimination. But if the tackling of racism is left to inter-governmental action there could be little or no practical

progress. An amendment authorising Community action was proposed by the Kahn Commission, a body set up with the unanimous consent of member states in 1994. The wording this group proposed was almost identical to the amendment suggested earlier by an independent group of experts, the

Starting Line group.
It will be a serious setback to human rights in Europe if the European year marks the rejection of an effective Treaty amendment. A heavy responsibility rests on our next government. ANN DUMMETT Member, Starting Line group

Oxford Sir: I read with dismay ("Europe blocks duty-free drinks for the troops", 26 December) that the other members of the European Union are unlikely unanimously to back a request by the Government for Commonwealth troops to receive duty-free goods whilst stationed in the United Kingdom.

Perhaps the Foreign Office should approach each EU member individually, asking them if they have any objection to this practicereminding them that there was none during the Second World War, when troops from many Commonwealth countries helped to liberate European countries. LESLIE FREITAG Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Exorcise the Imp

Sir: How pathetic to read that the Bishop of Lincoln felt unable to preach his message of peace this Christmas in his own cathedral, because it is enveloped in feuding "The season of ill-will", 26 December). It is clear that the Lincoln Imp, turned to stone by the angels for his mischievous and troublesome ways, is at it again. He should be exorcised by the Bishop. CYNTHIA COULTHARD Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Millennium help pressure dome", 23 December; ietters, 24 December). why can't we for the homeless simply determine to spend the same money on making sure that Sir: Perhaps the Prince of Wales, Mr there will be no homeless people Costa and Holy Trinity Brompton have not noticed that every church having to sleep on the streets of our cities and towns by the year 2000?

in the land is practically empty

faith in church centre", 30

except at Christmas and Easter. So

why build yet another one - capable of seating 10,000, what's more - in

Battersea? (Prince of Wales places

A far more Christian use of lottery money and matching private funds would be to use the whole site for the

satellite projects with, as its focus, a

wonderful modern hostel and de-tox

on our streets. Not as glamorous, but

of far more value and something that

really does face up to the problems

we still have in our society at the end of this millennium.

The Church for its part might

consider how many of its redundant buildings throughout the land could also be used in this

way and make lottery bids for their

conversion – providing of course, that it would be prepared to accept money generated from gambling. Sir TERENCE CONRAN

Sir: Instead of wasting money on

worthless monuments being

politicians and pontificating

architects ("Welcome to the

promoted by self-serving

centre to house and feed the homeless and those who still sleep

Dawkins and the divine 'joke'

PETER WINCHESTER.

Sir. Richard Dawkins does his scientific background a disservice "Surely, you must be joking", 24 December) since he bases his conclusion on only some of the relevant knowledge available to him.

Christmas and Easter (which he is right to link together) are not just about forgiveness or mercy; they are also about justice. God is both a just God and a forgiving God. If God punishes all sin, then he is perfectly just but without mercy. If he forgives all sin, then he is perfectly merciful but at the expense of justice. That is why God could not, as Richard Dawkins argues "just go right ahead and

forgive us". True forgiveness has a cost, both to the one who forgives (who has to accept a wrong and set it aside) and range of people, not because they

the one who is forgiven (who has to accept that they have done wrong and deserve punishment). This conflict between justice and mercy

TIME TO PUT OUT THE

is resolved through Christ. God the Father and God the Son agreed willingly out of love for mankind that Christ would come to earth, knowing that He would be cruelly put to death, to satisfy the need for justice so that God could then exercise mercy. Christ pays the debt of men and women to God, just as someone might pay the fine for a convicted criminal today. As Paul puts it in his letter to the

Romans, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners [ie enemies of God] Christ died for us."
GORDON WHITEHEAD. Ripon, North Yorkshire

Sir: The Rev David Clemens (letter, 27 December) states that "you don't get bitter or offensive about something you don't care tuppence for", and implies that Richard Dawkins must therefore care deeply for the "truths of Christian belief" that he inveighs against.

The first notion is patently absurd. Terrorism, Nazism pollution are regularly subjected to extreme animadversion from a wide | Dr N J CARR

harbour a deep desire to cherish and nurture them but because they would like to see them wiped from the face of the earth.

Unknown risks

Sir: I have never read such an

as that by Nicholas Schoon on

("Nothing to fear from techno-

One of the main problems with genetically modified crops that are released into the environment is

that the changes they engender will

be irreversible. Given the huge

capacity for destruction for individuals and the environment.

all that is required is much more

caution.
There is absolutely no research

on the long-term health and nutritional effects of genetically

modified organisms, and it is the

simplest common sense to argue that very full research should be

required before proceeding with

supplier companies is simply money, and to imply that we just

beyond belief.

such fundamental changes.

The main motive of many of the

I doubt that Mr Schoon would

included among those injured or

confidently predicts occurs.

DIANE MILLER

killed when one of the mistakes he

genetically modified food

com", 11 December).

of modified food

irresponsible article in your paper

Theologies of the Incarnation and the Atonement may well exist. So what? To people who do not believe in a god, these are no more than cute fairy stories. Introduce a mythical "supreme being" element into European folk tales or the Greek myths and you have a theology. Where does that get us?

Religion is certainly an extensive and significant part of human behaviour. It requires careful study and analysis, in the hope that we may one day find a cure. ADRIAN DEERE-JONES Glynneath, West Glamorgan

Sir: Whenever I read any of Richard Dawkins' work I am reminded that his expertise lies in genetics. We would not think of soliciting his opinion on any other subject, such as meteorology or Mayan hieroglyphics. Why should we feel he has any special skills as a theologian?

If we learn anything from his column, it is from the slightly desperate tone that hints at a fear that there might - just - be something greater than Richard Dawkins after all.

have to accept the forced imposition of their policies because they cannot wait is defeatism be quite so philosophical if a member of his family were

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Where goats are a winter pest

Sir. Your charming picture of the goats on Great Ormes Head (23 December) illustrates one side of a controversy; the text hints at another. Another photograph might have shown diseased and filthy goats at the end of a hard winter, foraging in streets and gardens, and at risk of death or injury from traffic or as they jump from wall to garden wall.

When animals are artificially maintained in the absence of predators, they are liable to increase to levels which cannot be themselves and the environment. Summer visitors, who usually see them only when food is plentiful. and who have petitioned for the abandonment of a cull aimed at reducing the herd to a sustainable level, have little idea how different the situation can be in winter.

There would rightly be protests if our Orme shepherds were so foolish as to try io maintain much larger herds of sheep on the Orme grassland than it can properly support. Yet no one will take responsibility for the goats, an introduced species much diluted by domestic strains and now most remarkable for their penetrating

stench. Having interfered with Nature, it is our duty to manage wildlife, albeit with a light hand, and not to allow it to become unbalanced in distressing booms and busts. Much of the Great Orme is already a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with a wild cotoneaster unique in Britain and other rare and beautiful plants as well as the notable seabird

The goat, with its ability to graze

Gay blood donors shunned

Sir: I was interested to read Graham Jarrett's letter (24 December) explaining why his wife was excluded from donating blood I also responded to an appeal for more donations, in the summer of 1995 when there was a depletion in the level of blood stocks. However. I am excluded from donating blood

for a very different reason.

The National Blood Transfission Service's donor selection criteria inform potential male donors: You must not give blood if ... you have ever had sex with another man." As a male homosexual I am automatically classified as belonging to a "high-risk group" regardless of the fact that I have taken heed of the safer-sex

guidelines of the past decade.

Mr Jarrett is right to point out that the BTS is appealing to a very small donor base and so will continue to experience severe shortages, particularly at demanding periods such as Christmas. I acknowledge that the BTS has a responsibility to ensure no infected blood enters the system, but I believe it is possible to do so without ostracising certain sectors of society.
VINCENT FINNEY Edinburgh

just those areas that sheep cannot

reach, will help to destroy this remarkable environment. BLHWILSON Llandudno, Gwynedd

Anti-a concept: lacks

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Anti-abortionists' conception of a baby lacks conviction

hat would you do if you found one of the candidates standing in your constituency was a member of the Herod Tendency? The Herods snatch babies from their buggies if they suspect the mother is inadequate/ a drain on the state/ likely to rear criminals or where the child is seriously disabled. The Herods seize these misfits and run them through with a sword in full public view.

They do this with absolute impunity because in our savage society we have passed a law saying they can, a law supported by a majority of MPs and an overwhelming majority (80 per cent) of the voters. We live it sages live, it seems, in a society far wickeder than the Third Reich where the Holocaust at least pretended to be secret from the people, or Rome, with its grizzly Colosseum games where many enemies died but not little Roman citizens.

That is what the Roman Catholic Church, the evangelicals, the fundamentalist Muslims and Jews all profess to think of our abortion laws. Innocent "unborn children" -170.000 last year - are put to death. An embryo, from the moment of conception, is, they say, the very same as a child. That is what the Catholic Cardinals Hulme and Winning have been going on about. But if they really REALLY

believe it why has the wicked-ness of abortion not driven them mad? Why are they so passive and moderate about it? Cardinal Hulme, when asked, politely said he thought abortion 'a great evil in our

society and really unworthy of a civilised society". Modest words, in the circumstances. Cardinal Winning said Scottish Labour's refusal to allow a pro-Life stall at its conference was "almost fascist". Even that seems inadequate outrage.

Would we all stand by as passively, with just a few caustic words, if we thought innocent children were being butchered in their thousands? I hope not. We would mount a revolution, we would storm the barricades, hurl ourselves. por Parhament for this reason, I have always had some sympathy with the American extremists who picket abortion clinics. If you think children are being killed, it makes sense.

But the pro-Lifers seem to take this modern massacre of the innocents rather well (just as the Vatican took the Holocaust rather well, which maybe why the present Pope compared the two a few years ago). Why? Because, of course, they don't REALLY believe a blob of an embryo is the same as a baby in a buggy. Like a great many absurd things the religious claim to believe, they plainly don't actually. They play at belief. After all, if the people of the Middle Ages really thought a Hieronymus Bosch hell gaped at their feet, they would have been good. The religious only believe with a little bit of their mind, while common sense rules most of their brains.

Instead of rebellion, the Life lobby is mounting some 50 well-behaved candidates to oppose pro-abortion MPs. Instead of barricading themselves inside their cathedrals the Catholic bishops are lobbing snowballs at the Labour Party, in this empty silly season when there is nothing else to fill the *Today* programme. Why do the media love abortion? Why not the flatearthers, the anti-fluoridisers of the water supply or the Esperantists? For abortion is not an issue. It is a dead parrot, going nowhere. Ceased to be, expired and gone to meet its British foetuses.



Polly Toynbee

Pro-lifers seem to take this modern massacre of the innocents rather too well - they don't really believe a blob of embryo is the same as a baby

maker, rung down the curtain and joined the choir invisible.

he Sharia, the Mus-lim code of law, is a

complex system of

jurisprudence that

does not interest the Western man in the street

(cops, man and woman!).

Understandably, therefore, the

Western media does not pay it

more than a passing, disparag-ing nod. Yet when a cause

célèbre involving Muslims explodes, one finds a sudden

This week, Debbie Parry and

Lucille McLauchlan, two Bri-

tish nurses in Saudi Arabia.

were charged with the murder

of an Australian colleague,

Yvonne Gilford. Judging from

the reaction of the British

media, one would think the

incident was one of the most

significant developments of the fading year. Of course, it was

not. But all the elements of a

cause célèbre are here: "holy

men" sitting in grim judgment:

infested" holes, and the grand

One has the sickening feel-

ing that some writers wanted

the episode to end in a prophecy-fulfilling-itself be-

heading. With the media, it is

the story that counts. The

human suffering triggered by the story is dismissed, in the

same way that military com-

manders dismiss the loss of

innocent civilian lives in an air-

Among the sensational reports, bits and pieces of the

real Sharia inadvertently

emerged. Readers learnt that it

was up to a victim's family to

insist on retribution or par-

don. No one stopped to ponder

this rather strange legal phe-nomenon, handing the power of life and death to the relatives

In fact, murder in the Sharia

is a personal crime; the state is

bound to respect the wishes of

the victim's family. Each year in

Saudi Arabia, many killers are

pardoned by the families of the

victims, but this is hardly noted

by the Western media, inter-

ested only in the number of

executions. All students of

Islam know that the Koran did

not introduce the principle of

retribution, but merely reaf-

firmed what the Old Testament

What the Koran did intro-

duce was the concept of par-

don. The Koran gives relatives

of a murder victim the absolute

right to insist on a "life for a

life". Yet the Koran heaps

praise on those who forgive and

pardon. All this does not sit

well with the common media

image of a "brutal" Sharia and

the only aspect of Sharia that is

not understood because it is

never intelligently discussed in

the Western media. There are

numerous other examples.

According to the Sharia, 2 wife,

in the marriage contract, can

retain the right to divorce and

can specify the financial settle-

ment when a divorce occurs.

This is perhaps more advanced

Capital punishment is not

so it is consistently ignored.

of the victim.

raid as "collateral damage".

belpless women in "rat-

finale, a public beheading.

interest in the Sharia.

and joined the choir myssible. This is an ex-issue.

No doubt Labour and Tony Blair feel aggrieved. Why keep picking on them when all the parties firmly hold the line that MPs have a free vote. True, Blair foolishly made himself vulnerable by trying to have it both ways. He voted for abortion and reaffirmed I about tion and reaffirmed Labour MPs' right to a free vote but then he tried to suck up to the anti-abortionists by adding that he personally was actually against it. What? And then voted FOR it? Either abortion is murder or it isn't. He said individual people should make their own choices. To murder? Surely not. So he deserved a bit

Yesterday Cardinal Winning claimed that Labour antiabortionists are put under intolerable pressure to keep their views quiet. John Reid, Labour Scottish Catholic MP, replied tartly that the most pressure he had come under was from organised write-ins by A small frisson of unease

of a kicking from the cardinals.

swept through the pro-abortion lobbies yesterday. Was it possible, as a last desperate gesture, clutching at straws, that the Tories might come out for a tightening of the abortion law? After all, it can be made to seem quite reasonable. As modern technology keeps foetuses alive at an earlier and earlier stage, so the legal date for abortion needs to be made

It is an argument to be strenuously resisted. Who needs late abortions? The most hopeless, desperate cases, the 14-year-olds who have no idea what is happening to them, the very stupid and the mentally retarded: all the people who would make the worst mothers. And if soon foetuses can be kept alive at any

stage, will we ban abortion altogether?

But the Conservatives could not be that foolish after Senator Dole's experience. Clinton's strongest pitch in winning the crucial women's vote was his veto of a bill to outlaw late-term abortions. Dole's flirtation with the pro-Lifers was the big gest of his many imagine Major making that mistake. All the British polling evidence suggests even antiabortionists do not switch votes against a pro-

abortion candidate of their own party.

The issue, together with contraception, is even sinking the Catholic Church, now in urgent need of a progressive Pope to rescind the 1968 encyclical Humanae Vitae. Claire Short says the church has lost her generation of women. The National Abortion Campaign points to a poll now nearly 10 years old which shows that even then nearly a third of British Catholics supported abortion, twice as many as those who were strongly against.

But so what? From a population of 58m, only some 7m practice any religion and most of them are moderate, so why should politicians worry? Religions are just one minority among myriads, though they get airtime out of all proportion to their numbers.

Here they are a relatively minor menace but the Catholic Church's stance on these matters continues to cause untold suffering round the world. There might be more sympathy if the Pope took into the Vatican all the unwanted street children of Catholic Brazil, born as a direct result of Catholic teaching. Or if the pro-Lifers were as active about the massacres of those children as they are in defence of

Why Islam's law bewilders the West

by Ghazi A Algosaibi



Lucille McLauchlan (left) is charged with the murder of Yvonne Gilford in Sandi Arabia

The Koran did not introduce the principle of retribution, but merely reaffirmed what the Old Testament said

decisions to divorce lawyers "the whole thing". During the and divorce courts.

I have never seen a reference to this right of Muslim women in the Western media. I suspect it is ignored because it contradicts the "bash-the-women" concept of Islam.

Another example has to do with "hand-chopping". Nobody in the media bothers to point out that this punishment is applied only in very specific kinds of theft and under most stringent conditions. No one, for example, would lose his hand for embezzlement, forgery, stealing public money, or helping himself to items not properly protected. During times of famine, the second Caliph, Omar, suspended this punishment altogether. Many modern Muslim scholars argue that unless a Muslim state introduces a comprehensive welfare system, it has no business ap-

plying this punishment.

Adultery is also presented in a most misleading way. According to the Sharia, adultery can-not be established unless four witnesses convince the court

early period of Islam, a man anpeared in front of a judge to testify in an adultery case. He told the judge that he saw the man on top of the woman, saw the movements, and heard the grunts. The judge asked if he saw "actual entry". The witness grumbled that he would have to be a part of the woman's vagina to witness such an occurrence. Despite the gruinblings, the accused were set free and the man was lashed for bearing false testimony. As some

My central point is that tensions between Islam and the West have little to do with theology and very much with politics. Western propagandists denounce Islam for not respecting the Western human rights code, circa 1997; Muslim apologists counter by saying that Islam introduced most of these rights 14 centuries ago, thus making them "divine" rights, which no one can take away.

acute observers noted, this strin-

gent requirement makes adultery

a crime only if practised during

than systems that leave such that they saw with their own eyes. Western spokesmen criticise "barbaric" punishments, while

> The conflict between Islam and the West is political. This requires some explanation. During the past five centuries, the West's political experience led to the common belief that no progress could be achieved as long as religion, embodied in the Church, dominated public affairs. Thus, there was a steady movement away from religion towards secularisation. The contemporary Western thinker is a by-product of the political

evolution. He is programmed to think of any return to religion as radical, reactionary and dangerous. Who would want the persecution of Galileo and witch-hunts again?

No amount of theological debate would convince the secular Western intellectual that religion could be the basis of a modern state. Since Islam presently is the only religion making such a sweeping claim. it inevitably appears to threaten the very foundations of Western civilisation. How long before Western fundamentalists caught the religion-is-state virus? When the Prince of Wales, a very exalted Establishment figure, suggested that the West could learn a few things from Islam, a tremor of fear ran down many spines in the West. What things?

In the Muslim's world, however, the political experience was running in exactly the opposite direction. When Islam was young and vibrant. Muslim civilisation was leading the world. It was only when Muslims "forgot" their religion that disintegration set in. Rightly or wrongly. Muslims blame their decline on the West which not only colonised their lands but sought to impose its own value system upon them. The past three centuries did

see the forceful advance of Western culture and the retreat of Islam everywhere. This trend was reversed only when a Muslim "awakening" started. The contemporary Muslim scholar is, in turn, the product of this particular political heritage. Western slogans of "democracy", "freedom" and "human rights" sound hollow and hypocritical to those who suffered for centuries under Western domination. No amount of preaching

from Amnesty et al would convince Muslims to detach themselves from their religion. To them, religion is a salvation, perhaps the only salvation. Religious scholars in Rivadh, Tehran, Cairo, Islamabad and Muslim advocates point out Jakarta may quarrel over many that no Muslim society would things, but they are united in allow tens of thousands to the belief that without a return sleep, homeless, in the streets, to yesterday, for Muslims, there will be no today or tomorrow. I honestly think it is about

time a thoughtful dialogue between Islam and the West started. What has been taking place so far is not a dialogue. because it did not take place among free agents. Whether they realise it or not, all the interlocutors are prisoners of their political past.

The writer is Soudi Arabia's ambassader in London.

A citizens' charter to save our cities

t is some years since Margaret Thatcher told us that there is no such thing as society. If our civic institutions continue to decline as rapidly as they have over the past two generations, she will soon be right. People have always been stronger and safer in organised networks and communitics. Inday we seem to be plunging into a chaotic, privatised future, recapturing medieval extremes of wealth and squalor.

Disconnected people feel, and are, essentially powerless. They stay home at night and watch their world falling apart on the TV. While the market has organised itself totally and globally in the last generation, a fatal powerlessness has emerged at the heart of our cities, bringing with it demoralisation, poverty, violence, and the surly nihilism of the street. We might remember that it is through our civic associations and relationships that we maintain and transmit our ethical values. If we are looking for the origins of the moral crisis in society. we must understand the erosion of our relational culture and its causes. Some would have us believe that these trends are inevitable. Social fragmentation is the price to pay for our prosperity and individual freedoms. Not so. We are sociable and political animals, but we urgently need to find practical ways of building social capital, Politicians of all parties new share a common thetoric of social cohesion and community spirit, but they don't know how to put

spunt civil society back together again.

by Peter Stokes and Barry Knight

A fatal powerlessness has emerged at the heart of our

cities, bringing with it demoralisation, poverty and violence. Broadbased organising offers one realistic model for civic renewal

Over the past six years, a new form of civic association has emerged in "broad-based organising". It asserts that we must tackle the structural causes of civic decline and fragmentation in urban communities. Just as workforces organised to advance their interests a hundred years ago, citizens must organise in new ways today to reverse the slide into powerlessness. The first of these organisations.

Communities Organised for a Greater Bristol, was established in 1990. Since then, sister organisations have sprung up in Merseyside, Wales, Sheffield and the West Midlands. The latest, the East London Community Organisation, is a coalition of 40 congregations and community associations, organising to fight for jobs and education, and against poverty and discrimination. All of these independent citizen coalitions are associated with the Citizen Organising Foundation, an educational trust that provides training for members.

These broad-based organisations have a strong moral agenda. One of their first actions pushed the Bristol and West Building Society into heavy donations and new policies on home-lessness. They worked on Hanson to develop a vacant industrial site in the job-starved south of Bristol (where, as one Hanson executive charmingly put it, he "wouldn't let his dog live"). They have closed crack houses in Bristol and brought the fly-upping mafia to court in Liverpool. A number of successful actions have been fought across the country to pressure complacent companies and local authorities to implement adequate pollution control or relocate dirty industries.

Aithough they have worked on local government and public bodies, their actions are increasingly targeting where the real power lies, in company boardrooms. The prime task is to hold arrogant, irresponsible, corporate power accountable.

How do they do it? What makes these organisations different?

First, they find the people who do still go out at night, and who have got the energy and the anger to make some real changes. In every city it takes several years to do this. Second, these organisations are BIG. They are composed of member organisations. which can mobilise many hundreds of people. At any time, each organisation may have a dozen action teams working on different issues, from high-street litter to malnutrition and the policies of the big food retailers.
Third, the broad base. They

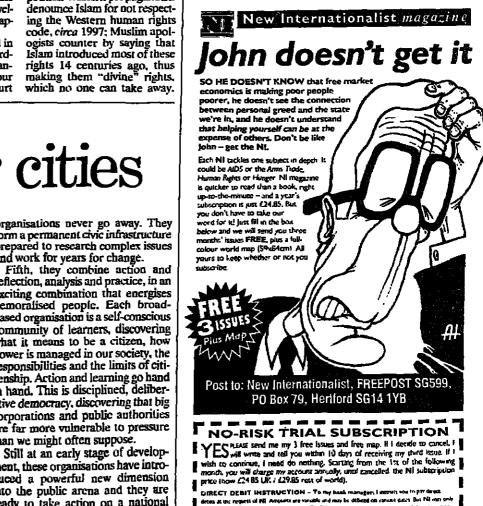
deplore the splintering of the community into weak, narrow sectional interests. They are diverse, and bring together schools and tenants groups. Christians and Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus, black and white, young and old, working class and middle class. They build an agenda for action around shared interests.

Fourth, permanence. Corporate executives and politicians are skilful at handling sporadic outbursts of anger from the community, which generally fade when energy and resources wane. But broad-based organisations never go away. They form a permanent civic infrastructure prepared to research complex issues and work for years for change.

reflection, analysis and practice, in an exciting combination that energises demoralised people. Each broadbased organisation is a self-conscious community of learners, discovering what it means to be a citizen, how power is managed in our society, the responsibilities and the limits of citizenship. Action and learning go hand in hand. This is disciplined, deliberative democracy, discovering that big corporations and public authorities are far more vulnerable to pressure than we might often suppose. Still at an early stage of develop-

ment, these organisations have introduced a powerful new dimension into the public arena and they are ready to take action on a national scale. It has taken a generation or more for our civic culture to reach its present state of decay. It will take another generation to repair the damage. Broad-based organising offers one positive and realistic model for civic renewal. The methods are distinctive, but the principles are as old as history. We can be certain that civil society will not re-emerge spontaneously. It will need to be organised.

Organising a Civil Society' by Peter Stokes and Barry Knight (£12 incl P&P) is available from the Foundation for Ćivil Society, 200 Bunbury Road, Birmingham B31 2DL (0121 4768705)



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Lew Ayres

As the young German conscript who becomes a resigned pacifist in Lewis Milestone's brilliant anti-war film All Quict on the Western Front (1930), Lew Ayres created an indelible portrait of disillusioned youth.

Ironically, in 1941 he was to become the most publicised conscientious objector of the Second World War, vilified by press and public for his views (reputedly formed by his appearance in the Milestone film). He will also forever be associated with Dr Kildare, the idealistic young surgeon he played in nine films of a popular series. After redeeming himself by serving as a medic and risking his life on the battlefront, he returned to Hollywood and an Oscar nomination for his role in Johnny Belinda, though the promise of his auspicious start as a Hollywood star was never totally fulfilled.

Born Lewis Frederick Ayre in 1908, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he studied medicine at the University of Arizona but was more interested in music, playing banjo in the college orchestra. While playing with a dance band at Cocoanut Grove in Hollywood, he was spotted by the talent scout Paul Bern and after a minor role in The Sophomore (1929) was signed by MGM to play opposite Garbo in her last silent film, The Kiss

Lewis Milestone, about to direct All Quiet on the Western Front at Universal, had decided to cast Douglas Fairbanks Inc in the lead, though Bern suggested Ayres for the role. The film's dialogue director. George Cukor, shot a test of Ayres (along with other hopefuls) and Milestone saw it on the day that United Artists (who had Fairbanks under contract) informed him that they would not loan their star. Ayres later stated, "Milestone told me time and time again that if I had made the tests earlier I probably never would have been chosen."

As one of a bunch of schoolboys persuaded by their jingoistic master to enlist in the war,



Great hit: Ayres as Dr Kildare

only to become disillusioned as they are decimated in futile milcaptured the pain and resignation of innocence betrayed. Asked while on leave to lecture to a group of young students about the glories of war, he makes a tentative start then angrily tells them, "When it comes to dying for your country, it is better not to die at all!", provoking hisses and boos. Equally memorable is the famous ending, where a sniper's bullet ends the boy's life as he reaches from his trench for a butterfly

Signed to a contract by Universal, Ayres was loaned to Warners to play a feared gang-ster boss in *Doorway to Hell* (1930), a monumental piece of miscasting. (James Cagney's presence in the cast, as one of Ayres's henchmen, only made the boyishly innocent Ayres look more incongruous.) He made over 20 films, mostly routine fare that slowly eroded his reputation, over the next few years, and in 1936 tried directing with Hearts in Bondage, which was not a success. Now starring in B-movies, he told a reporter, "Hollywood, quick to acclaim, soon washed its hands of me - and the snubs you get sliding down aren't nearly as pleasant as the smiles going up." He was given his first good

role in years when George Cukor offered him the part of Katharine Hepburn's brother in Holiday (1938), a beautiful screen adaptation of Philip Barry's play and one of the finest of Thirties comedy-dramas. Ayres, who confessed to having "coasted" through many of his previous roles, made his role as young alcoholic socialite wistfully endearing, though the film belonged to its stars Hepburn and Cary Grant.

The same year MGM cast Ayres in the title-role of a Bpicture, Young Doctor Kildare. as an intern working under the guidance and watchful eye of elderly Dr Gillespie (Lionel Barrymore). A great hit, the film started a series, and Ayres was working on his 10th when he was drafted to serve in the Second World War and he refused combat duty on religious grounds.

His career seemed over. Louis B. Mayer fired him and re-shot his scenes with Philip Dorn. Exhibitors refused to book films in which he appeared, pickets appeared outside cinemas that tried to show the Kildare films, and Variety called

After working in a labour



Though he had decided to retire from movies, he changed his mind while overseas. "I realised how important movies are to the lives of so many people," he said.

Restored to favour, he starred opposite Olivia De Havilland in Robert Siodmak's The Dark Mirror (1946), but later confessed dissatisfaction with his work. "As a psychiatrist investigating twin sisters, one of whom is a murderer. I played it too lightly. My character should have struggled and sweated more. I did too much smiling."
In Vincent Sherman's The

Unfaithful (1947), a splendid melodrama that effectively reworked Maugham's The Leuer to deal with the subject of wartime infidelity, he was a lawyer who defends Ann Sheridan on a charge of murder and also tries to salvage her marriage to a returning soldier. His next film, Johnny Belin-

him "a disgrace to the industry". da (1948), won him a Best Actor Oscar nomination for his non-combatant duties and who teaches a deaf and dumb acter player, he was a frequent 1940), 1964 Diana Hall (one served on the battlefront as a Jane Wyman how to commu-performer in television plays son); died Los Angeles 30 year at Bristol studying for the analogues for the stranger de-daughter); died Birkenhead. medic and chaplain's aide. nicate, though Ayres was not and movies, plus occasional December 1996.

happy with Jean Negulesco as director. "He was artistic and very extroverted, but none of us felt he was on target with the characterisations, so the actors became their own directors. Jane. Charles Bickford, Agnes Moorehead and myself respected each other's opinions, so after Jane and I did a scene we'd look at Charles and Agnes. If they nodded, we would pro-

ceed: if they shook their heads,

we'd do the scene again."

With roles once again becoming scarce, he embarked on a world tour in 1954 to compile a documentary. Alturs of the East, which he wrote, produced, narrated and financed. A probing of the frontiers of faith. it started a decade's study of comparative religion ("the most meaningful thing I have ever done") and production of several documentaries on the world's religions. In 1957 he was appointed by the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, to serve a threeyear term on the US National Committee for Unesco.

big-screen roles, among them Advise and Consent (1962), Bat-tle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) and Damien - Omen II (1978). "I still act occasionally." he said recently, "but I'm in my eighties and have never had my face lifted, so there aren't a lot of roles.

Two early marriages were unsuccessful - to Lola Lane (1931-33) and Ginger Rogers (1933-40) - but in 1964 he maried an Englishwoman, Diana Hall, and the day before his 60th birthday she gave birth to their

son, Justin.
"If I were young again,"
Ayres said, "I don't think I'd be an actor. I've met some wonderful people, and it made many things possible for me, but if I had it all to do over again. my field would be philosophy." Tom Vallance

Lewis Frederick Avre (Lew Ayres), actor: born Minneapolis, Minnesota 28 December 1908; married 1931 Lola Lane (marriage dissolved 1933), 1933 Gineer Roeers (marriage dissolved

Professor James Cross

James Cross was one of the great Anglo-Saxon scholars of his generation. For 20 years he was Baines Professor of English Language at Liverpool University, but continued an active research career after his retirement in 1985.

He had a wide range of scholarly interests in the early period, from Old Swedish to late Middle English literature, but his principal contribution was in the study of what might be called the intellectual underpinning of Anglo-Saxon writing: the use of motifs from Isidore. images from St Augustine, exotic details from neglected Irish Latin writers. He was an indefatigable researcher who could never believe that others might not share his boundless enthusiasm for the latest discovery. and would daily arrive in the senior common room in Liverpool to tell of the significant reading which would trace a detail to this authority rather than another. The channels by which

knowledge passed in the early Middle Ages were a particular passion with him. His forte was not the massive scholarly book, decades in the making, but the short article or monograph that was almost work in progress, turned out at the rate of three or four a year and with the ink barely dry: editors became used to Cross's need to rewrite in proof because he had continued o turn up new evidence since submitting an article. His discoveries were always provisional because he worked with material that had seldom been investigated, and there was no false embarrassment about returning to a subject and acknowledging that an earlier piece had been overtaken by his

own subsequent research. In his early years he worked on identifying the influence of leading patristic authors and themes on Anglo-Saxon poetry; but increasingly his interest urned to prose - and to the influence of lesser-known Latin texts or particular versions of them known in England. He made a major contribution to the understanding of the sources for Ælfric of Eynsham's work, and more recently pro-duced a series of studies which demonstrated the range of learning which lay behind the ninth-century text the Old English Manyrology. A particular interest of recent years was the influence of little-known Irish

writing on the Anglo-Saxons. Cross was born in 1920 in the Forest of Dean, and went to Bristol University in 1938. After Second World War service in North Africa and Europe, he returned to Bristol and gradu-

lowed by two years in Sweden, teaching at Lund University, and he then returned to Bristol as a lecturer in English, being promoted to Reader in 1962 (a year which also saw his award of a doctorate by Lund University for his collected

publications). Then in 1965 he became Baines Professor of English Language at Liverpool University, in succession to Sime-on Potter. There, as head of the English Language department, he worked in mostly amicable partnership with the head of the English Literature department, Kenneth Muir; and subsequently negotiated the combination of the two departments with Muir's successor, Philip Edwards. He was passionately committed to the work of the Language department in all its manifestations, determined to encourage appointments in Old Norse and Linguistics as well as the mainstream activities in Old English and Middle English. He taught Old English and Chaucer with particular enthusiasm, and had an unshakeable belief in the impor-

tance of encouraging the young.
As a head of department he was generous and positive, es-pecially in encouraging research, and widely trusted as a fair and honest university administrator who always spoke his mind - even if at times it occurred to him afterwards that it might have been better not to.

Liverpool offered few op-

portunities for Cross to build up significant research school, and his impact might have been greater if he had found himself working in a larger research community. But he compen-sated by his own assiduous participation in international projects and conferences, and by his enthusiasm for enlisting colleagues in collaborative ventures. The verbatim transcript of discussion at the Toronto meeting which launched the new Old English Dictionary in 1971, subsequently published in the proceedings, includes a delightful record of Cross's

interventions, aperçus, and

thoughts-in-progress. More recently he played an important part in the early development of twin projects on the inter-relationships of Anglo-Saxon writings and their Latin antecedents - the Americanbased project, Sources for Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture. and the British-based Fontes Anglo-Saxonici. In 1982 he produced in collaboration with Tom Hill of Cornell University an edition of two esoteric collections of Anglo-Saxon lore, Solomon and Saturn and Adritime in collaboration with Joyce Bazire of his own department an edition of anonymous Old English Rogationtide homilies.

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With retirement, in 1985, he became a full-time researcher and his output increased fur-ther. In 1987 he published an analysis and partial edition of a Latin homiliary preserved in a Pembroke College, Cambridge manuscript, whose importance as a source-collection for anonymous Old English homilies he had been the first to identify. In 1993 he produced, in collaboration with Jennifer Morrish Tunberg, a facsimile edition of a Copenhagen man-uscript containing a range of texts associated with Archbishop Wulfstan. A month before his death he published an edition of two more anonymous Old English texts with their manuscript sources, having identified for the first time the actual manuscript of a Latin source used by an Anglo-Saxon writer. And he was working on another important



collection of Anglo-Saxon texts when he died.

His distinction and achievements were increasingly recognised abroad: in 1996 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Jaume in Spain, and the International Congress of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo included a

symposium in his honour. Jimmy Cross owed much to the support of his wife, Joyce, and his excursions were in recent years restricted by his concerns over her own ill-health: but with her encouragement be continued the total commitment to research in Anglo-Saxon literature and learning which had marked the whole of his career.

Malcolm Godden

James Edwin Cross, Anglo-Saxon scholar: born Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire 20 July 1920; Baines Professor of English Language, Liverpool University Diploma in Education was fol- tails, and in the same year, this Merseyside 18 December 1996.

Bishop Gottfried Forck

Soon after the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, Kurt Scharf, Bishop of the United Protestant Church of the Province of Berlin-Brandenburg, was exiled by the East German government to West Berlin, where he remained as a bishop of great distinction. The Communist rulers could not stomach this straight-talking churchman with a passionate commitment to human rights.

The eastern part of the Province was thereby forced to find a new leader and no doubt wise to elect, in Albrecht Schönherr, an astute diplomat to steer the Church through the next 20 turbulent years. He was no fellow traveller, no apologist for Honecker's Soviet satellite, but with him discretion proved to be the better part of valour. His skilful diplomacy assured the Church not only of survival but of a higher public profile than many had thought possible.

But by 1981, when Schönherr retired, the mood had changed. All the hopes of real reform had come to nothing. The signs of stagnation and decay were increasingly obvious, though no one could predict that Communist power would not outlast the decade. What the Church now wanted was an outspoken leader more like Kurt Scharf.

undiplomatic, no careful tactitian, but a deeply believing liberal evangelical with an unswerving commitment to a more just society. He did not stand on ceremony and was never to be seen in the frock coat and winged collar of a traditional Lutheran bishop. He was no uncritical admir-

with the grassroots dissidents who dreamed of a radically reformed East Germany. When their leaders went to prison, he was the first to spring to their defence. In appointing as his personal assistant Michael Passauer, for many years the trusted pastor to East Berlin's angry young Christians, he left no one in any doubt as to whose side he was on. So trusted was he by the democratic opposition who, before German unification, were to become East Germany's first and only freely elected the post of State President. He turned it down; the post was left unfilled. Forck was a priest, not a politician; an East Ger-man Tutu, though without the

flamboyant charisma. Born in 1923 in Ilmenau in the Province of Thuringia, the heartland of Lutheran tradition, eader more like Kurt Scharf. a parson's son, he grew up in In Gottfried Forck they Hamburg, was drafted into the

found him: unassuming, navy and, as an officer, became an American prisoner of war. Released in 1917 he read Theology in West Germany at Bethel and Heidelberg, where he gained a doctorate in 1956. By this time he had already volunteered for the much harder life of the East.

His first post was as chaplain to East Berlin University, After er of the West; his heart was that came parish ministry, followed by nine years as head of a theological college and a further eight as Assistant Bishop (Superintendent-General) of the Cottbus region. It was with some reluctance that he allowed his name to go forward for what was, in effect, the most important bishopric in the country. His quiet good-humour notwithstanding, he never ceased to see this task as a heavy burden. He bore it with grace, but as life in East Germany became ever more intolerable, with increasing impatience. He did not hide his anger.

Young Christians were in revolt against East German militarism. The police pulled them in for wearing "swords to ploughshares" badges and threatened them with expulsion from school. So Forck walked to his office with the offensive badge on his briefcase. The police backed down. They no longer had the self-confidence



An East German Tutu: Forck (right) with Archbishop German (left), of the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, in Berlin in 1993

to arrest the Bishop of Berlin or to expel him like Kurt Scharf. When, in 1987, a number of prominent dissidents were arrested he used all his influence to save them from a long sentence or - what they feared most - exile to West Germany. In three cases he asked me, might not the Church of England invite them for a period of study in Britain? This the Communist

give them the right to return. critical solidarity with the sta-And that is what happened. One of them, who studied for a mate Christian option. Before year in Cambridge, is now a Member of Parliament in Bonn. At a meeting of his trusted

Catholic and Protestant friends in Michael Passauer's flat, a few months before the wall came down (I had the privilege to be present as the only foreign

authorities might accept, and guest), he openly stated that most others, he had read the writing on the wall. Had his words reached the Stasi, he might still have faced a charge of treason. He knowingly took that risk.

Gottfried Forck had deplored the exodus of East Ger-

tigated Bonn for encouraging it, but at the same time, characteristically, defended their right to go, a right denied by the very existence of the Berlin Wall. Despite all that, Forck was not by nature a political bishop. It was his pastoral care for people, his perceived duty as a bisbop that drove him to make many a stand.

It was equally characteristic that when the peaceful revolution succeeded and the Communist Party chief Honecker was imprisoned and then released because he was too ill to stand trial, Forck provided him with refuge in a church home. He pleaded that the officers of the Stasi who had so often made his life a misery, should now be treated with generosi-ty and not revenge. He showed no trace of bitterness.

And he continued to defend East German interests in the face of what now felt like an insensitive takeover by the West. Many of the values the Church had fought for in the East were now threatened, he feared, by the worship of the new golden calf, the all-powerful Deutschmark. His personal life had been

happy and fulfilled. Of his five children four are musicians, reflecting Gottfried Forck's 1991 Beatrix Zastrow: died own love of music. His first wife Rheinsberg 24 December 1996.

died in 1988. On his retirement mans to West Germany and casin 1991 he moved to the small town of Rheinsberg, of literary fame, and married the local parson, the Pastorin, a former pupil, and until cancer laid him low he worked happily as her honorary curate. He was more in his element there than in the world of great affairs to which he had contributed so richly. My last meeting with Gott-

fried Forck was on his last holiday, a visit to London this summer with his young wife to visit one of his musical children. He was at his happiest at a candle-lit concert at St Martinin-the-Fields. On one of London's rare Mediterranean nights we then sat until well after midnight in Covent Garden Market, charmed by French waitresses and animated by French wine. That is how I shall remember him.

Paul Oestreicher

Gottfried Forck, pastor. born Ilmenau, Thuringia 6 October 1923; Chaplain, East Berlin University 1954-59; Principal, Brandenburg Theological Seminary 1963-72; Superintendent-General, Coubus 1973-81: Bishop of (East) Berlin-Brandenburg 1981-91; married 1956 Renate Falkenroth (died 1988; three sons, two daughters), 1991 Beatrix Zastrow: died

The Rev Jacquie Jones, Chaptain, Chelmsford Cathedral (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Bridge-

Cathedral (Cheimstord): to be many St Matthew (Portsmouth). The Rev Peter Kelly, Vicar, Easiney St Margaret: to be Priest-in-charge, Sommore St Barnates (Portsmouth).

The Rev Dr Michael Morphy, Vicar, Luddenden Foot (Whitefield): to

DEATHS

LINDSEY-RENTON: Blanche Fox (nee Auld). On 28 December 1996, at Gloucester House Nursing Home, Sevenoals, Keul, Blanche Lindsey-Renton, aged 105 years, widow of the late George Henry Lindsey-Renton, of "Dovers", Reigate, Surrey, Funeral Service to be held at Entmanuel Church, Sidlossbridge, neur Reigate. Service to be neth at Emmanuer Church, Sulfowbridge, near Reignte, Friday 10 January, 11.30am. No flowers, donations preferred to: The Royal London Hospital League of Nurses, Central Office. The Royal London El 18B. Enquiries, Stoneman Funeral Service, 01737 763456.

man Funeral Service. 01737 763456.

MONKS: Neale Cameron Stewart, of Berkhamsted, Suddenly, on 27 December, aged 50 years. Beloved husband of Valerie, lather of Parisa and Neale junior, brother of Judy Tiehame and David Monks. Funeral service on Wednesday S January at 10am at St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, Herfordshire, followed by private cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers place to SENSE, National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association (founded by parents of deaf-blind children). 11-13 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Park, London N4 3SR. Enquiries to J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd., telephone 01442 870326. cements for Gazette BIRTHS

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriams should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 3010, and are charged as 65.00 a line 0171-293 2012, or fasted to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an-pouncements (notices, functions, Forth-coming, marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fasted) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, former managing di-rector of BP, 77: Mr Alister Camp-bell, rugby player, 37: Lord Colwyn, dental surgeon and jazz trumpeter. 55: Miss Valentina Cortese, actress. 73; Sir James Crane, former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 7c; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 47; Mr Richard Gibson, actor, 42; Baroness Lloyd of Highbury, paediatrician, 69; Miss Zena Marshall, actress, 70; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, N2: Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 73: Colonel Patrick Porteous VC, 79; Lord Kings-land (Sir Christopher Prout OC), for-Raphael, organic chemist, 76; Mr. Lawrence Rowe, West Indies cricketer, 48; Mr.J.D. Salinger, author, 78; Lord Swansea, marksman, 72.

Anniversaries

Births: Lorenzo de Medici, states-man, 1449: Paul Revere, silversmith and American hero, 1735; Maria

Edgeworth, novelist, 1767; Francis Egerton, Earl of Ellesmere, statesman and poet, 1800; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, 1819; Ouida (Marie Louise de la Ramée), novelist, 1830; Sir James George Frazer, anthro-pologist. 1854; Baron Pierre de Coubertin, educator and sportsman. 1863; William Fox (Wilhelm Fried), movie mogul, 1879; Edward Morgan Forster, novelist, 1879; Alfred Ernest Jones, psychoanalyst, 1879; Charles Bickford, actor, 1889; Martin Niemoller, anti-Nazi German priest. 1892; John Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, 1895; Dana Andrews (Carver Daniel Andrews), actor, 1909; Harold Adrian Russell "Kim" Philby, former Foreign Office official and defector, 1912: Joe Orton (John Kingsley Orton), playwright, 1933. Deaths: Louis XII, King of France, 1515: James Francis Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, 1766; Heinrich Rudolph Hertz, physicist, 1894; Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, cartoonist. 1925: Jakob Wasserman, novelist, 1934; Sir Edwin Landseer

Lutyens, architect, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, entertainer and actor, 1972; Hephzibah Menuhin, pianist, 1981; Lord David Cecil, author, 1986; Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (L. Ron Hubbard), science-fiction writer and propounder of Scientology. 1986; Cesar Romero (Caesar Julius Romero), actor, 1994. On this day: the Portuguese captain Concaives entered the bay of Rio de Janeiro, 1502; the Gregorian calendar was introduced into Switzerland and German states, 1583; Charles II was crowned King of Scots at Scote, 1651; the first issue of the Daily Universal Register (later the Times) appeared, 1785; the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into being, 1801; Haiti declared her independence of France, 1804; the importation of slaves into the United States was forbidden, 1808; Britain proclaimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, 1833; the name of Van Diemen's Land was changed to Tasmania, 1856; London was divided into 10 postal districts, 1858;

Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India, 1877; the first postal orders were issued in Great Britain, 1881; the electric chair was adopted in New York for capital punishment, 1889; the Manchester Ship Canal opened, 1894; the Commonwealth of Australia was set up, 1901; in Britain, people of 70 and over be-came eligible for old age pensions, 1909; Labour exchanges came into operation, 1910; the British telephone service passed into the control of the Post Office, 1912; the British Board of Film Censors was given powers to operate, 1913; a strike of London toxi drivers began, 1913; the Union of So-viet Socialist Republics was established, 1923; the capital of Norway, known as Christiania, resumed the name of Oslo, 1925; coalmines in Britain were nationalised, 1947; British railways were nationalised, 1948: the European Economic Community came into being, 1958; the Cameroons became independent, 1960; Western Samoa became inde-pendent. 1962; the Foreign and

Commonwealth offices were amajgamated to form the Diplomatic Service, 1965: Great Britain, the Irish Republic and Denmark joined the EEC, 1973; UK fishing limits were extended to 200 miles around the British coast, 1977. Today is New Year's Day and the Feast Day of St Almachius or Telemachus, St Clarus, St Concordius of Spoleto, St Eugendus or Oyend, St Euphrosyne, St Felix of Bourges, St Fulgentius of Ruspe, St Mochua or Cuan. St Odi-lo, St Peter of Atrea and St William of Saint Registry.

Church appointments The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Linda Donness, Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsea St Mary to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsmooth Rural Deanery (Perconoutin).
The Rev James Florance, Rector, Orsell and Bulphan and Horndon on the Hill (Chelms-lord), to be Priest-in-charge, Locard St Mary

The Rev Dr Michael Morphy, Vicar, Laddenslen with Luddenden Foot (Whitefield): to be Vicar, Corbridge with Halios and Newton Hali (Newcastle). The Rev David Robinson, Priest-In-Charge, Ingraw cum Halinworth (Bradford): to be Vicar, Brumhope (Ripon).
The Rev Keivun Shilvock, Assistant Curate, Kidderminster St. John and Holy Innocents: to be Team Vicar in the Kidderminster West Icam Ministry with special responsibility for Barchen Cupping St. Peter (Warcster). The Rev Adrian Sallinan, Priest-andrage, The Marshen Hall Group: to be also Rural Deam of Bollingbroke (Lincoln).

RESSIGNATIONAL

RESIGNATIONS and RETIREMENTS The Rev Roy Kingston, Priest-in-charge, Humbledon SS Peter and Paul (Portsmouth): to retire 27 April 1997.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry mounts the Ouern's Life Guard at House Guards. lam: and the Queen's Guard, at Back Palace, 11,30am

حيكنا من الاعل

business & city

Markets and pound end year on high note

Magnus Grimond

Markets ended the year on a high note yesterday, with the pound reaching levels not seen since Black Wednesday four years ago and the FTSE 100 index of leading shares edging up to another record close. The Footsie ended 2.8 points ahead

at 4.118.5, giving a gain for the year of some 11.6 per cent. In thin trading, sterling broke through the psychologically im-portant \$1.70 barrier to settle nearly two cents up at \$1.71, a rate not seen since September 1992 after the UK was forced out of the European Monetary System. It was a similar story against the German mark, with the pound's half-pfennig rise to 2.6365 taking it above previous

peaks reached over the last rates could go up later this where the trend in money costs four years. The last month were fuelled by further is upwards. But they warned

Analysts said the currency was being driven by hopes of a further interest rate rise in January. Expectations that money

FTSE 100 index

signs of the continuing pick-up in the UK economy, with strong mortgage lending figures for November and what was described as "pretty robust" money supply data for the week

The British Bankers' Association said approvals for new lending had dipped by 6 per cent between October and November, half the rate recorded in the same period of last year. Meanwhile, gross lending actually made in the month at £2.67bn was fractionally ahead of the already strong figure for October.

Analysts said foreign currency investors were being drawn to the UK as one of the

is upwards. But they warned that the limited trading meant too much should not be read into the year-end exuberance. Chris Turner of Barclays de

Zoete Wedd said: "It is a very thin market and there is not much trading going on. Really it is just a continuation of what we have seen over the past week or so as people look forward to a rate rise early in the new year." The recent weakness of the

yen was a contributory factor, he said. Japanese investors were increasingly looking for higher returns outside Japan, according to Mr Turner, with the UK the only major country where an imminent rate rise is expected.

Capel said there was nothing and came nowhere near the

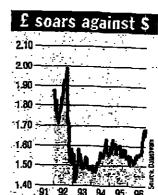
particularly new yesterday. record 35 per cent performance although the strong M0 and of 1989. And with only 203 millending figures lent support to the interest rate story. Most people were discounting a rise in January, possibly after the next meeting between Bank of England Governor Eddie George and the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, on 15 January.

Equities shrugged aside the possible impact of a stronger pound on overseas earnings to notch up its fifth closing high of December. The near-12 per cent gain defied many sceptics at the beginning of 1996 who suggested the market would he largely unchanged during the year. But the near-12 per cent gain was well below the 20 per Robert Prior of HSBC James cent recorded the previous year

of 1989. And with only 203 million shares traded in a truncated half-day session which missed an early morning fall on Wall Street, the few dealers at their desks warned yesterday that the strong showing should not necessarily be taken as a pointer to next year's perfor-

Robert Buckland of HSBC James Capel described the market as "very dull", with no real change in direction. "It is very difficult to find any signal or lead. There are not loads of fund managers saying, 'This stock is very cheap' and others saying: 'No they're not, have mine'." He is forecasting only a modest increase in the main index to 4,400 for this year.

Technical factors played their part in yesterday's rise, which came on the back of the expiry so-called FTSE 100 index "flex options", which are dealt in over the counter.



The last set of economic statistics from the old year added to the warm sentiment yesterday. The 6 per cent fall in the number of new mortgages approved left a total of 40,259 for November, worth £2,358m, but this was only half the seasonal fall recorded in November 1995. "This points to a general and sustainable strengthening of the whole market," according to

Tim Sweeney the director-general of the BBA. The BBA includes eight of the 20 biggest mortgage lenders and the complete mortgage figures due on Friday are expected to show the level of mortgage lending has accelerated steadily since April 1996 and is now running almost 5 per cent higher than a year ago.

No need

to fear

Labour,

says CBI

The Confederation of British

Industry let its non-political

mantle slip in an unexpected

direction yesterday when its

president, Sir Colin Marshall,

conceded that business had

nothing to fear from a Labour

political neutrality, the em-

ployers' organisation has tradi-

tionally been viewed as a

natural ally of the Conservative

Party. So much so that at its last

annual dinner in May Sir Col-

in warmly thanked the guest

speaker. John Major, saying

he hoped to be able to invite

him back in the same capacity

But yesterday Sir Colin said

industry had no reason to fear

Tony Blair, "so long as the poli-

Party are not at variance with

what we believe are the best in-

terests of the country from a

business and industry stand-

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's

Today programme he urged whoever wins the next election

not to jeopardise the current economic climate. We are

looking at the longest sustained

period of economic growth and

stability this country has expe-

rienced in recent memory. We

are the envy of the major coun-

tries in Europe, Sir Colin said,

suggesting Labour would be

ill-advised to deviate from pre-

adopted by the

Despite its protestations of

Michael Harrison

government.

this year.

BA poised to offer Heathrow landing slots – at a price

Michael Harrison

British Airways is set to accept the conditions imposed by the Office of Fair Trading on its alliance with American Airlines by offering take-off and landing slots at Heathrow to rival

it should be allowed to sell the slots rather than being forced to surrender them without any

financial gain. The airline's formal response to the OFT is due to be submitted early next week ahead of the 10 January deadline set down for replies. Other carriers, notably United Airlines and Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic, will argue strongly that the OFT's conditions do not go far enough, allowing BA to strengthen still further its dominance at Heathrow.

lan Lang. President of the Board of Trade, announced last month that he would not refer the tie-up to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission provided BA and AA released 168 slots a week to other airlines wanting to operate transatlantic services.

initial estimates suggest the slots could fetch up to £180m. A BA spokesman said: "We don't see any justification for simply relinquishing these siots. No other transatiantic ailiance has been asked to do so and they have a far greater share of slots at their hub air-

ports than we do. Lufthansa, for instance, controls 60 per cent of slots at Frankfurt. If we have to release slots we will look for suitable payment from whoever takes them over."

The European Commission is due to publish guidelines carriers. shortly on how airport slots might be freely traded. However, there appears to be a split



Richard Branson: Opposes conditions imposed by OFT

in Brussels over the desirability of slot trading with the Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, supporting the move and the Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, being less enthusiastic.

In tandem with UK government approval for the alliance. BA and AA are about to seek clearance from the US Justice Department and US Department of Transportation. The BA spokesman said a formal application for approval would be submitted to the two government agencies early in the new year. The aim is to begin operating the alliance formally

in the spring.
Separately, BA sources poured scorn on reports from Taiwan that it was preparing to pay £120m for a 16 per cent stake in China Airlines.

According to local newspaper reports in Taipei. BA has shown a keen interest in acquiring a stake from the China Aviation Development Foundation, which owns 82 per cent of the airline.

A BA spokesman in London said it was not the company's policy to comment on rumours and speculation about possible alliances or investments. But other aviation sources said there was not a lot in the reports from Taiwan.

The Hong Kong-based investment bank Wheelock NatWest has been commissioned to advise on the share sale and is thought to have approached a number of European airlines. But no serious discussions have taken place and the deal to bring foreign investment into China Airlines is not expected to be concluded

until later in 1997. TAT and Air Liberté, which it took formal control of on Monday. BA has made no secret of its desire to find a partner in the Pacific Rim.



Changed alliances: Sir Colin Marshall gave un

Concorde eradicates the tobacco habit

Pop stars, movie moguls and business tycoons flying Concorde across the Atlantic have lit up for the very last time. From today, smoking is being banned on the three-and-ahalf hour flight from London BA's existing alliances are to New York as part of British with Qantas, Deutsche BA, Airways' drive to weed out tobacco on nearly all its services,

writes Michael Harrison. action to its existing smoking bans had been overwhelmingly die George, the chain-smoking

favourable and he saw no reason why the response from Concorde passengers, paying £6,000 a head for a return

trip, would be any different. Concorde seats 100 passengers and of late the number of rows allocated to smokers bas been in decline. Among its most regular customers are Sir David Frost and Michael A spokesman said that re- Jackson, neither of whom smoke. But the pext time Ed-

Governor of the Bank of Eng- troduced non-smoking trials in land, needs to get across the At- the UK in 1988. The few relantic in a horry he will find not a single BA service that lets him light up.

Smoking is already banned on 750 BA flights and from today a further 350 destinations are being added to the list so that 90 per cent of BA services

will be smoke-free. Tobacco has slowly been

maining routes on which it is still allowed include Spain, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Russia, the Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

BA's chief executive .Bob Ayling, a non-smoker, said that more than eight in 10 passengers now requested non-smoking seats and policy would eradicated from the BA net- continue to be shaped by its work since the airline first in- customers.

surprise. "We came home and

he said, 'Do you want a big wedding or a small wedding?" she recounted. No date has yet

Mr Greenspan, a balding

American with big round glass-

es, has applied the same kind of

measured caution to his matri-

been set for the nuptials.

sent economic policies. However, he did not let Labour off the hook altogether, restating industry's opposition to two of its main policy commitments - the introduction of the Social Chapter and a windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

"We will certainly take to task and raise issues with which we disagree," he said. "We are not in favour of joining the Social Chapter in Europe because of our concerns at reducing the competitiveness of this country and the additional bureaucracy it will bring about. We are not in favour of the imposition of windfall taxes because we find those discriminatory."

Sir Colin's views about the need for stability were re-in-forced by the British Chambers of Commerce, which used its New Year message to urge that there be no sudden changes in economic policy.

Dr Ian Peters, the BCC's deputy director-general, added that whoever formed the next government had to take Europe and the prospect of a single currency seriously by participating in negotiations over economic and monetary union. Politicians should provide fewer soundbites and better-informed debate on one of the most significant decisions to face the country.

IN BRIEF

Companies seek new home as USM shuts

Just a dozen companies still being traded on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) had failed to find an alternative home when the market closed for business for the last time yesterday. At its peak in 1989 450 companies were traded. Of the last survivors Aberdeen Steak Houses is expected to trade on Ofex, the informal trading market sponsored by Stock Exchange marketmakers JP Jenkins. The way is also still open for the remainder to seek a full listing or a quotation on AIM, the Stock Exchange said yesterday. But it emerged yesterday that Greenwich Communications, a loss-making business which supplies satellite television in Portugal and has property assets in the UK, had applied for a full listing and has been turned down.

Investors handed a stake in Sooty

Investors in Guinness Flight Venture Capital Trust will own a stake in Sooty. the glove pupper. The fund has invested £750,000 into the holding company which owns the two Sooty businesses and all associated intellectual property rights. The investment means GFVCT owns a 33 per cent stake. The fund's strategy is to expand Soon's potential in film and merchandising. The first episode of a new cartoon series will be screened on ITV next week.

Toulmin resigns from United News & Media

Michael Toulmin has resigned as a director of United News & Media. The move follows the appointment to the board earlier in the year of Stephen Grabiner who now has executive responsibility for all the group's newspapers. Mr Toulmin has represented the regional newspapers and UK advertising publications on the board since 1988. He will remain chairman of United Provincial Newspapers and Yorkshire Post newspapers.

Bids to manage Telstra privatisation

The Australian government has invited stockbroking firms to bid for the lucrative job of managing the A\$10bn (£4.7bn) one-third privatisation of the main communications carrier, Telstra. Submissions to handle what will be Australia's largest privatisation are due by 20 January.

Ashquay criticises UK Estates' purchase

Ashquay, the property group which is involved in a £21m hostile bid for UN Estates, has increased the pressure on its target by criticising UK Estates decision to spend £500,000 buying its own shares for its employee share trust. The groups have been involved in bitter exchanges since Ashquay launched its offer lasts month.

Sir Christopher steps down from Costain

Sir Christopher Benson stood down as chairman of the troubled Costain construction group vesterday. He is being replaced by Dr Azman Firdaus Shafii. Sir Christopher's departure coincides with the recently approved sale of the group's US coal interests and its stake in the Spitalfields development site. Chief executive Alan Lovell will step down once a successor has been appointed.

GWR tunes into Radio Wyvern with £3.9m bid

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

GWR, the acquisitive commercial radio company, has launched a recommended £3.9m offer for Radio Wyvern, the Hereford-based operator, just a day after completing the purchase of Classic FM, the national radio service.

In order to keep below limits on radio licence ownership, GWR is selling its controlling stake in Leicester Sound and an 11 per cent holding in London News Radio to the Daily Mail group. It will also sell a number of AM licences, including Sevem Sound.

But it wants to keep its Sevem Sound FM station, which overlaps with Wyvern FM's audience area. As a result, it will need the approval of the Radio Authority under the public interest test. GWR said yester-

day the Authority would rule by March. If the decision goes against GWR, one of the two stations will be wholly or partly

The offer for Radio Wyvern is for 755p a share, plus a notional interest payment of not less than 24p a share. Wyvern shareholders can also choose to accept 4.1 new GWR shares for of Radio Wyvern, said: "We are each Radio Wyvern share. worth 769p at GWR's close last night of 187.5p. Those electing for the share alternative would also receive the 24p notional interest payment.

GWR has received the backing of directors holding 20 per cent of the shares, as well as irrevocable acceptances from shareholders speaking for a further 37 per cent.

Radio Wyvern had pre-tax profits in the year to September of £44,910, down from £127,938 the year before. GWR

1596 Low Yield(%)

4015.30 3.50

1816.60 3.78

2011.74 1791.95 3.75

22666.80 19161.71 0.81†

13530.95 10204.87 3.101

2909.91 2253.36 1.611

1996 地台

6560<u>.</u>91

As at close 30 December. Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

£350 -----

Bary's change Change (%)

+11.10 +0.5

+10.58 +0.5

-11.54 -0.2 -7.69 -0.0

4115.70 +24.70 +0.6

+7.58

13480.75 +76.51 +0.6

2887.85 +34.97 +1.2

4484.B0 +14.30

FTSE Small Cap 2176.79

FTSE All Share 2011.74

said the acquisition would be earnings-enhancing from next

Henry Meakin, chairman of GWR, said the Radio Wyvern would be "a strong geographic fit with the group's existing operations in the surrounding area.

Sir John Cotterell, chairman convinced that we should now become part of a larger opera-tion," calling GWR "the most successful company in UK radio broadcasting" GWR has been one of the

most aggressive companies in the commercial radio sector. Rebuffed in its attempts to buy a New Zealand radio company carlier this year, it has concentrated on building its domestic base. GWR's partly owned LNR is one of 25 bidders for the last remaining London FM licence, to be awarded next month.

Modey Market Rates

Germany 3.09

1 Hesti

Fed chairman chooses a bride

Alan Greenspan, the 70-year-old chairman of the US Federal Reserve is to marry an NBC television reporter 20 years his junior. Mr Greenspan has announced his engagement to Andrea Mitchell and the couple plan to get married in the new year, a central bank spokesman said on Tuesday.

Known for his cautious steering of interest rate policy as head of the powerful Fed. Mr Greenspan proposed to Ms Mitchell on Christmas Day after the two had dated for more than a decade. "We have a huge amount in

common. It's a really great match," he told the Washington Post newspaper. Mr Greenspan and Ms Mitchell, 50, were both married previously.

Ms Mitchell said that the proposal, which came after the two had spent Christmas morning with friends, was a complete

Long Board (%) Hear Ago

7.57

7.59

16 5.0 Low & Bonar 408.5 7.5 1.8

INTEREST RATES

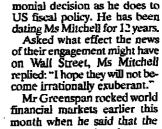
Board Yields

1 Year | Medium Boad (%)

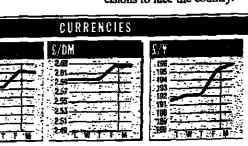
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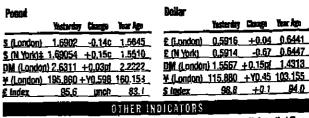
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0.50



central bank had to be wary when "irrational exuberance" infected Wall Street stock prices. "How do we know when irrational exuberance has unduly escalated asset values?" he





landest Lathest Yr Ago Most Flor Yestorday Day's chg Year Ago 153.9+2.7pc 149.8 16 Jan Of Brant \$ 23.69 +0.27 18.33 RPI Biocompatibles int 800 48.5 6.5 Willis Corroon Grp139.5 3.5 2.4 369.40 -0.15 387.05 GDP

market report/shares

Data Bank FTSE 100 4118.5 +2.8 FTSE 250 4490.5 +5.6 **FTSE 350** 2043.8 +1.6 SEAQ VOLUME 203m shares, 17,902 bargains

Share spotlight

Gilts Index

dead-cat bounce?

After a traumatic run, with the price crashing from 336.5p to 230.5p, the shares have enjoyed a spirited revival and yes terday rose another 3p to 284p. BTR's comeback started on

grey Friday; the bleak December day when Footsie was at one time down 168.5 points after US banking chief Alan Greenspan had warned about stock markets getting over-

It was, as blue chips slithered and slipped, the only Footsie constituent to score a gain.

Its sudden return to form which, far from shovelling the

Has BTR's long slide from grace finally ended—or are the shares merely experiencing a venting the sprawling conglomerate. His trading statement was expected to be a torrid examination of the problems he was encountering.

The market had become so resigned to BTR remaining in a state of deep depression that it was happy to embrace any-thing sounding remotely pos-

However, Mr Strachan still has much to do. A return to the high-riding days of two years ago when the shares topped 400p could still be a long way

Its sudden return to favour the shares yet has confined its followed a trading statement aspirations to a 300p March

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

BTR revival continues as Footsie splutters to new high

stock market reporter of the year

positive one.

What was left of the old Un-listed Securities Market quietly

disappeared with most of its re-

maining constituents finding

United Biscuits, where there

homes elsewhere.

and splutter its way to a New on a high note, on a reasonably Year's Eve peak - but it was a finished at 4,118.5p points, up 2.8. Trading was, as expected, thin during the half-day session and once again most of the action was generated by New Year tips and a few fund man-

agers gently indulging in a lit-tle year-end window-dressing. The market ignored a little hesitancy in New York and the various more cautionary elements such as interest rates, sterling's rampant form and the

takeover sense, suffered so many false dawns that the shares now have little speculative appeal.

Oils were supported with the current cold snap underpinning crude prices.

The sector, after two takeover bids last month, is also During the year Footsie has climbed 429.2 points and the supporting FTSE 250 index prone to speculative activity. Enterprise Oil was by far the best performing oil share, gaining 11p to 648.5p.

Eurotunnel was lowered

1.5p to 79p after an electrical fault delayed a Paris-bound Eurostar train but Airtours, on re-ports of a holiday booking surge, climbed 4p to 812.5p. The bio-babes were back in

has been signs of tentative nibbling over the festive season, added 2.5p to 210p. The shares have struggled from a 196p low.

The bio-babes were back in form. Biocompatibles International jumped a further 20p to 820p and Peptide Ther-

way from enjoying the luxury of profits. It forecasts losses of £17.9m this year, rising to £19.8m next. The stockbroker's fair value assessment is 360p.

Pentland, the sports group, gained 2p to 100p on sugges-tions its greeting cards division would soon be the subject of a management buyout and Blacks Leisure reinforced its

Blacks Leisure reinforced its top-of-the-table position with a 21.5p gain to 386.5p.

EMI, the showbiz group which has been accorded the dubious distinction of being the market's hot takeover stock for read to the dubic to the 1997, edged forward 7.5p to down 1p at a new 14p low 1,380p. The shares have The shares were 400p in climbed from a 1,193.5p low in 1991. There are hopes a £4m

Taking Stock

inspiration. But UB has, in a the stockbroker, is still a long Calluna, a maker and distributor of miniature disk drive products, should swing into profits next year, believes stockbroker Albert E Sharp. Analyst Richard Lucas is looking for a £4.5m loss this year and then profits of £5.3m followed by £13.8m. The company has funded ex-pected volume production of its new disk drive through a shares are 55.5p, down from

> down 1p at a new 14p low. November but are still below profit will be achieved this the 1,486p peak hit in the year against a £1.9m loss.

<u></u> -	在1997年 1997年 1997	新聞 4年 1 日 1 日 1 日 1 日 1 日 1 日 1 日 1 日 1 日 1	260 240 220
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· OK

RACING: A jockey who was close to death a year ago is striding off on the road of reparation. Richard Edmondson reports

Swinburn steps back in thanks

est Gump. Ffyona Campbell and Hannibal. Now it is Walter Swinburn who is setting out on a great youp on Monday.

The jockey taken close to death by a catastrophic racecourse accident in Hong Kong in February embarks on a charity walk across Ireland next week to raise funds for causes close to his heart. The St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin, the Cambridge Children's Hospice and a fund set up to help youngsters who were being treated for deep burns in the Prince Of Wales Hospital in the colony while Swinburn himself recovered there from his head and chest injuries, will all benefit from the Cork to Dublin trek.

There are plenty to attest that there has been a metamorphosis in Swinburn since Liffey River sent him crashing through the running rails at Sha Tin at the beginning of last year. Before then the conventional image of Swinburn had been of a man who indulged his station as one of the nation's most successful riders. Ever since he won the Derby on Shergar in 1981 received a lot of support from as a 19-year-old the gossip has people on my way back and it's

most snugly into the role of a turf playboy.

Hong Kong, though, has fur-ther brought out the emotions of a person who exhibited his vulnerability after winning the 1995 Derby on Lammtarra. As he recuperated on his sick bed last February the idea came easily that repayment was not a choice but a prerogative.

'I received a lot of support on my way back and it's important

for me to give something back'

"I thought about all this while I was still in Hong Kong," he said yesterday. "I had to get back riding first but there was always something going to be done for those children in Hong Kong. I

at Cashel in Tipperary, which will be a stopping off point on his journey next Wednesday. St Vincent's Hospital, where the finishing tape will be strung out, is also a landmark of personal significance as it was there that Swinburn's friend John Durkan has recently received treatment for leukaemia. It appears that like Swinburn

> forefinger beckons. "I spoke to John last week and he sounds as if he's doing really well," Swinburn said. "If he keeps going the way he is he'll be back training before you

before him, Durkan, who was

struck down by the disease just

as he was embarking on a ca-

reer as a trainer, is not about to

trot forward when the final

thing back to everyone else."
That Ireland should be the

venue for his reciprocation is no

surprise. The 35-year-old's birth

certificate may state that he was

born in Oxford, England, but he

regards that as a statistical aberration and himself as an

Irishman. His father, Wally snr,

is a former champion jockey of

Ireland and his mother,

Doreen, was born and bred

The Emerald Isle was where

the elfin Swinburn first learned

to ride and also where he was

educated, at Rockwell College

over the water.

As Ireland's southern counties are woken by the noise of angling buckets next week, it will be doubly hard to miss Swinburn, as he is followed by two back-up vehicles and an entourage of some substance. "I don't think I'll be lonely," he said. "They don't do things that way in Ireland."

In the time he gets to ponder, the "Choirboy" will be able to go through the range, from the bone-grinding nightmare of Sha Tin to the glory of the Breed-

Walking up to a new image: Walter Swinburn puts in some training near Newmarket yesterday for his Irish trek

ers' Cup and Toronto, where he piloted Pilsudski to rapturous success in the Turf event. It was when speaking of that day that Swinburn insisted he was a non-fare-paying passenger and that his physical rehabilitation

was as yet incomplete.

"Td been saying all along that everything was geared towards next March and the start of the Flat season at Doncaster, so I couldn't turn round after one race and say everything was back to normal," he said.

Before the genesis of Town Moor, Swinburn will take his blisters off for a week's holiday in the sun, and then complete the physical regimen he has set for himself by flying out to the United States for work with the trainer Neil Drysdale.

Dubai may also receive a visit from the man who, according to Frankie Dettori, is the most naturally gifted riding talent alive today.

During all that time Swinburn will be doing his hardest to ob-

serve the dictum he will, as tradition dictates, set for himself today. "My New Year's wish is to stay healthy and clear of injury," he said. Walter Swinburn deserves that to come

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the charities can do so through the Walter Swinburn Charity Walk account at Barclays Bank plc, High Street, Newmarket CB8 8NH (sort code 20-60-

SWINBURN'S ROUTE

7 January: Fermoy - Cahir, via Mitchelstown

8 January: Cahir - Cashel, va New Inn., Rockwell College 9 January: Cashel - Johnstown, via Horse & Jockey, Littleton

10 January: Johnstown - Abbeyletx, via Cullahill 1.1 January: Abbeyleix – Monasterevin, via Portisoise, Ballyonti

12 January: Monasterevin - Naas, via Kildare, the Curragh 13 January: Naas - Rathcoole, va Johnstown, Kill

14 January: Rathcoole - Leopardstown, via Saggart, Tallagrit, Rathfamh 15 January: Leopardstown - Mansion House, via St Vincent's Hospital

Hever Golf Lover on the way to 1,000

Hever Golf Lover, winner of the Light Brigade Maiden Stakes at Lingfield yesterday, could be a runner in this year's 1,000 Taby, that is.

The filly, ridden by Darryll Holland and sent off the 5-2 favourite, led on the home turn to score by four lengths from Countless Times.

Her trainer, the Epsom-based Joe Naughton, said: "We entered her in December last year as you have to do it early. The race is worth about 40 grand.

There are two races here on 11 January over five furlongs and seven. She could go for one of them and will stay more than the minimum trip.

Alan Daly notched the 40th winner of his career and his 22nd of the year when the Eric Wheeler-trained Mister Raider took the Inkerman Handicap, "Alan rides him ex-ceptionally well," Wheeler said. "The horse breaks well and is useful in his own class."

RESULTS

LINGFIELD

12.55: 1. RASAGEL (Anthony Bond) 4-1; 2. Broughtons Formula 3-1 g fav. 3. More Than You Know 12-1. 8 ran. 3-1 g fav Marthias Mystique (6th). %, 1%, (P D Evans, Welshpoon, Yote: £5.40; £1.90, £1.30, £3.90, DF: £8.80, CSF: £16.44,

Incast: £123,05.

1.25: 1. JUST LOUI (D Sweeney) 11-4;

2. Rock To The Top 13-2; 3. Eager To Please 10-1. 6 ran. 6-5 fav Micullen Lad (5th). 11; 1. (W G M Turner, Sherborne). Tota: £3.60; £2.80. £4.50. DF: £12.50. CSF. £18.39. NR: Windborn.

CSF. £18.39. NR: Windborn.

1.55: 1. HEVER GOLF LOVER (O Holland) 5:2 fav: 2. Countless Times 6-1:
3. Green Boulevard 7:2. 6 ram. 4, sht.
hd. (f.) Naugeton. Epsom). Tote: £4.10:
£1.00, £1.80. DR: £9.00. CSF. £16.05.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £5,847.38 carot: £121.10. Quadpot: £34.20. Place 6: £193.78. Place 5: £81.39.



SOUTHWELL

2.40 Sharp Command 3.10 Head Girl (nb)

3.40 PINCHINCHA (nap)

STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None

12.35 Elton Ledger

1.35 Deeply Vale

1.05 Prophets Honour

ADMISSION: Club \$12; Tattersalls \$6 (OAP me accompanied under-16s free). GAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TEAINERS WITS RUNNERS: M Johnston — 44 winners from 217 runners gives a success ratio of 20.7% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$2.4.56; R Bollinshead — 43 winners, 442 runners, 9.73%, ~8186.41; T D Barron — 37 winners, 252 runners, 14.7%, 50.07; J Berry — 37 winners, 269 runners, 13.8%, \$284.36.

■ LEADING JOCKETS: J Quinn — 49 winners, 579 rides, 8.5%, 5.270.80; J Wesver — 48 winners, 253 rides, 19%, +545.97; L Dettori — 39 winners, 189 rides, 20.6%, -5.17.78; Doan McKeown — 38 winners, 335 rides, 11.7%, -5.116.85. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Standown (visored, 12.35), Pareille (1.35), Time Gash (2.05), Royal Roulette (visored, 3, 10), Hob Down (visored, 3, 10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Fast Spin (3.44) won at Southwell on Fruiay.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Justfortherecord (2.05) has been sent 217 miles by B R

12.35 RESOLUTION CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,800 added 7f Penalty Value £1,944

| 21103 | High PREMIUM (18) (C) (D) (BF) (I C Parsons) R Fahey 9 9 7 . A Cultume 7 2 43560 ANONYM (4) (D) (Wetherby Roam Bureau Ltd) D Nichols 5 9 3 . J Branchill (7) 3 B 0 SALLY ARMSTRONIG (LS) (Rapin Lee & Cain Left C Thormon 4 9 2 . Deam McRewom 11 4 43612 E 1200 N LEGGRE (40) (CD) (IPV G Switers) D Nichols 5 8 13 . S Sanders 1 5 000000 RAMEO WALTZER (4) (CD) (W G Switers) D Nichols 5 8 13 . Mext Greenus 4 6 000000 Internation (USA) (119 W Barry I J O'Nell 5 8 11 . Dame O'Nell 2 B 7 (22505 STANDOWN (12) Nr Comp Deuters) J Berry 4 8 9 . P Roberts (5 8 6245 SANTELLA NATIE (1469 (G) I V Perrestroy Mrs I Stubbs 4 8 8 . S Whithrorth 1 9 065060 LITTLE IRRY (13) (CD) (Switers) D Nichols 1 Stubbs 4 8 8 . J Quide 10 120020 SEA DEVIL (233) (C) (D) (A N Goscher) M Camacho 1 8 3 . L Charmock 5 1 000000 HAMAMA MRSS (40) (Ms I Hactured P Paling 5 8 2 . S Drewne 10 - 11 declared -

BETTENS: 7-4 High Presiden. 9-2 Etco Lodger, 8-1 Sea DevS, 8-1 Santella Katle, 10-1 Anonym Ramio Waltzer, 12-1 others 1995: no corresponding meeting

High Premium has yet to win beyond a mile, so the nine-furlong trip might have something to do with his defeat at Woiverhampton 18 days ago, when he britished third to South Eastern Fred in a competitive handcap. High Premium had won his three previous all-weather races and must be difficult to beat back in a claimer. Like High Premium, ELTON LEDGER would have found the timp against him last time, but he ran his usual sound race in going down a head to Chadleigh Lane in a mile claimer on this course. Back over a more suitable distance and getting 8th from High Premium, Elton Ledgers is an obvious danger. Anonym would be getting weight from Etion Ledgers in a handcap but is giving him 4th today, so he is up against it, and it is difficult to have much confidence in Anonym's stablemate Rambo Waltzer Lade of in a Voiverhampton claimer last Septiday. However, Rambo Waltzer has been a useful sout round here in the pass (Anonym has yet to win on the all-westher) bo Waltzer, tales of in a Wolverhampton claimer last Seturday. However, Ramb has been a useful sort round here in the past (Anonym has yet to win on the alland can hardly be ruled out, bearing in mind he got the better of the usaful Berg at Wolver-hampton in January last year. This looks the right tinp for Sentelle Kattle judged on her neck second to Shadow Casing in a Chepstow made to but that form did not amount to much.

1.05 ONE TOO MANY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN APPRENTICES STAKES (CLASS F) £3,600 added 1m 3f Penalty Value

1.0 declared BETTING: 9-4 Pruphets Honoux, 5-2 Fresh Futt Dally, 6-1 Hever Colf Engle, 8-1 Dishy Dism
The Oddfellow, 10-1 Zatopols, 12-1 Ernel Sham, 14-1 others

FORM GUIDE

It is difficult to know how good PROPHETS HONOUR is these days, because he must have had problems to keep him off the course since December 1995, when he completed a hattack in juvenile hurdes. Still, Prophets Honour was rated much higher then the rest of these the lest time he ran on the Flat and stays the trip, while most of the others have a bit to prove from a stamma poert-of-wew. Martin Dwyer is an encouraging choice of inder. Hereer Golf Eagle was placed in madelrs on this course early last year and his second to Mister Aspecto in a Lingfield handicap in 170 suggests he can stay this trip in this company. Zadopek has stronger claims than most judged on his second to Drama King in a 12-furioring handicap at Wolverhampton in August. He was rated 52 that day, whereas famyar raced off only 35 when second to Hooftprints at Lingfield and that form has not worked out well. Fresh Fruit Delly has not recel beyond a mile very often and has not sparked in her less two all-weather races but she cannot be ignored in such a weak contest.

Selection: PROPHETS HONOUR

135 RESOLUTION CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,800 added 7f Penalty Value £1,944 - 11 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Deeply Vale, 5-1 Warharst, Calibrang Rung, 6-1 Awesome Venture, Pulet It Black, 8-1 Deshyab, 10-1 Mby Bereiest, 24-1 others

The lest time AWESOME VENTURE ran here was in May last year, when he beet Desert Invader in a claimer to record his third win on this course. He rarely ran a poor race here

last winter and could well be good enough despite the lay-off. Deepty Vale is back in a claimer for the first time since he bear in-form Barossa Valley at Lingliebt in November for Gary Moore. He should make a race of it. Like Deepty Vale, Dahlyah used to be trained by Gary Moore. He has his first run for Bryan Smart today and will not be far away if he can produce something like the effort that won him a 24-curner Goodwood seller under 9st 11th back in June. Sweet Mate was entitled to need his last two races and was often in the frame in handicaps here when trained by Roy Bowring. He might do better back on this course, and the same applies to Chilibang Bang, atthough her two wins here last winter included a weak, four-numer seller. As in the First Division, David Nichols runs too! Warbuset, who has not had much paged since he win a midd bearbean hare last languary and Ballet.

L	2.05	CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f Penalty Value £2,765
ī		NAPIER STAR (19) (CD) (P M Hesson) Mrs N Macauley 4 10 0C Teague (2) 8 V
2	000162	SHASHE (120 (CD) (Mrs Arros L Sandars) Pat Mitchell 5 9 7
3	305000	RLESPINGER (29) (CD) (The Action Racing Club Ltd) B Rothwell 4.9.1
4	065255	ANITA'S CONTESSA (4) (Mrs Anita Quant) 8 Palling 5 9 1
5	250002	GI LA HBEH (33) (C) (Ladyswood Racing Cub) M Meads 4 9 0
6	000000	TIME CLASH (40) (D) (Mrs D) Haghes) B Paling 4 8 6
7	505403	BALLARD LADY (44) (D) BAS P Wele) J Warningst 58 6
8	000-	JUSTFORTHERECORD (418) (Mrs S Joint) 8 R Millenan 5 8 3S Drowne 5
9	300060	MAYSMP (138) (Mrs. Joan M. Chitmes) B Baugh 4 8 2N Adams 3
U	000410	HONEYHALL (29) (CD) (Seve McLaughin) N Bycot 4 8 0
11	456006	BELROA BUJE (25) (Ms J Jackson) Ř Felrey 5 7 13
12	003050	IRA 63 (Im Deed for I Score 5 7 10

BETTING: 11-4 Mapier Star, 4-1 Shashi, 6-1 G La High, 8-1 Balland Lady, Honeybell, 10-1 Kilps; lager, 12-1 Anita's Contessa, 14-1 others

FORM GLIDE

MAPER STAR, Shashi, Nipsinger and Honeyhall have all won over course and distance, while GI La High has scored over the minimum here and stays this sx. The selection, who rarely runs a bad race, went in at Wolverhampton in July and November and was a good hird to Scissor Ridge and second to Mijas, on her last two runs at Lingleid. Shashif sprang a 20-1 surprise when three parts of a length too good for Anita's Contessa (3ib better in but on a long losing sequence and out of the frame in both subsequent outings) over the hir in November, with Juba (5ib better but unpiaced in three starts since) a length further away in third. Shashif, who finished only south of 16 to Chadwell Hell over course and distance need times are Markotic Store to a length at Wolvestramenton two weeks and her is held. away in third. Shashi, who finished only soon of 16 to Chadwell Hall over course and distance next time, ran Marjorie Rose to a length at Wolverhampton invo weeks ago but it held by Gi La High, who was besten only a neck in Chadwell Hall's race and masts Shashi (who was more than three lengths behind her? 70 worse. Napier Star finished some eight lengths in tons of Gi La High when a neck runner-up to Chemicast on Equitack in November. Klipsinger gained her course win in May and but has fasted to make the frame in her last five races. Honeyhall overcome a slow start to score over the top here the time before last but had only half a length in hand of third-placed Ballerd Lady (who is 3th better off). Plipsinger 14th of 15 – and was well besten behind libereen here last time. Bellands Blue and Nippinger soon and 12th of 13.

2.40 THINKING & DRINKING HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2m Penalty Value £2,726 — 9 decimed —
Minarum weight: 7st 10th. True handloop weight: Whet Jim Warts 7st 9b.
BETTING: 5-2 Golden Radeer, 3-1 Walta Willow, 9-2 Haster Foodbroke
Elite Biles, 16-1 What Jim Wasts, 12-1 Tee Tee Tee, 14-1 others
FORM

FORM GUIDE

WHITE WILLOW left Many Reveley for 8,000gms after winning a cleaning hundle at Newcastle 16 days ago. He has won four Flat races, the most recent over a mile and six of this course 12 months ago, and will lack nothing in fitness despite not having raced on the level since a fourth to Arian Spirit at Newcastle in March, Golden Hadeer, who made all over a mile and thise-quarters here the time before last, followed with a third behind Rasayel (lungfield winner yesterday) at Wolventampton and could prove White Willow's toughest nival. Elike Bities, third to Golden Hadeer here, beaten only half a length and a neck, has a 3lb put, so must also be kept on the right side. Pick of the others should be last month's Wolventampton winner Sharip Command, though he finished tailed off on Equizach last have.

3.10 MORNING CALL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,150 added 370 1m Penalty Value £2,189 -11 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Ball-Pet, 4-1 Head Sirt, 5-1 Chaselows Flyer, 7-1 Royal Residents, 3-1 Utamond Eyra State of Gold, Hob Down, 10-1 others

BETTING: 5-2 Fact Spin, 7-2 Pinchincha, 4-1 As-is, 5-1 Going For Broke, 6-1 Shelton Son

3.40 NEW YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £2,752

FORM GLHDE

PINCHINCHA, down the field in an end-of-season Doncaster malden, was well becked for a course and dissance seller lest time and day scored in good style from Bonne Ville (a Wobserhampton winner previously). The Pholo gading is better than selling class and, with further improvement likely, is worth the chance to win m this better grade. Feat Splin also further improvement likely, is worth the chance to went intro detter grade. Feest spin also opened his account when dropped into a sellar here lest time, but it was a modest event and a 7th peruity could be his undoing. Marish Manighid may oose more of a threat having won from a big field at haydock in October. She ran well enough at Newmanks had Newbury afterwards but leeks a recent outing. As-its gave only limited encouragement in malders during the turf season but certainty cannot be discounted in his first handcap, Gorge For Broke may have benefited from his run here last month but Steebass Severales, a 10-furtorg winner at Lasester in October, would probably be better over further.

Fibresand hit by all weathers pipped at

The ability of all-weather rac- Kershaw, reported yesterday: "I ing to live up to its title will be wouldn't put it as strongly as to Travel far enough and it was still Southwell will attempt to stage we have had a slight frost and a meeting on its Fibresand track despite the fact that almost half a foot of snow has fallen on to the course in 24 hours.

inches of snow and the prospects should be fine as long as there is no heavy snow-fall overnight," Ashley Bealby, the clerk of the course, said. The track is raceable today and at 5pm [yesterday] there are no a look at the course at 6am to-

morrow." which rang out the Old, looks the most likely to ring in the New as snow and frost ravage the rest of the racing programme. Turf racing has not taken place in Britain since the card at the Edinburgh course last Friday and, with prospects for the remainder of the week looking bleak, Saturday's Musselburgh card seems the most likely to

break the sequence.

a slight dusting of snow, noth-

ing has got into the ground." Tomorrow's cards at Ayr and Market Rasen have already "We have had five to six tumbled to the elements and with Friday's venues of Lingfield, Sedgefield and Towcester suffering from a cocktail of frost and snow, the turf drought looks set to continue.

Saturday's cards at Haydock and Sandown, which have atproblems, although I will have tracted a number of top-class entries, also look likely to fail. Sandown's fixture is due to Musselburgh, the turf track stage the Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazalet Memorial Chase, the Tolworth Hurdle and the Pertemps Hurdle, but Andrew Cooper, the clerk of the course, is far from optimistic.

"We never got above -3C last night and it hasn't been more than -1C today," he said. "We will have a clearer picture on Thursday but you would have to say, given how we are now and the forecast, the chances of The course's manager, Mark racing on Saturday are slim."

WEATHER ROUND-UP

TODAY

SK

Southwell (AM) Course raceable but will be checked at 6am. 7.30am. Fairyhouse Inspection 7.30am. Tramore Inspection 7.30am. Catterick Abandoned, frost and snow.

snow. Exeter Abandoned, frost and snow.

Leicester Abandoned, frost and snow. Uttoweter Abandoned, frost and snow. **TOMORROW**

Ayr Abandoned, frost and snow. Market Rasen Abandoned, frost and Snow. Lingfield (AW) No problems.

Garolo is

place on turf vesterday. Cagnessur-Mer, in the south of France. staged a meeting and there was a familiar name on the card in the shape of Garolo, trained at Lambourn by Charlie Brooks. The winner of a novice chase at Uttoxeter a fortnight ago, the Graham Bradley-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sharp Command (Southwell 2.40) NB: High Premium (Southwell 12.35)

ridden gelding failed by just a neck to win the Prix Jacques Pinel de Grandchamp for the second consecutive year. Brooks will seek quick con-

solation for the horse in another race at Cagnes on Sunday. Khayrawani has continued to attract support for the Ladbroke Hurdle, at Leopardstown on Saturday week. Coral have shortened him to 5-1 from 6-1. while others that have been well supported with the same firm are Guest Performance (16-1 from 25-1), Lady Arpel (16-1 from 20-1), Centaur Express (20-1 from 33-1) and Owen

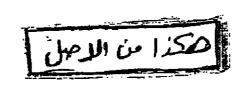
Duff (25-1 from 50-1). Coral have also trimmed Nahthen Lad to 20-1, from 25-1, for the Gold Cup.

The Ladbroke: Corat: 5-1 Khayrawarii, 9-1 Penny A Day, 10-1 Family Way, King Of Kerry, 12-1 Bolino Star, 14-1 others

Thomas Cook **SNOW REPORT** SK! HOTLINE Around the resorts atest snow and weather reports from 180+ resorts in Europe and Phone or fax: 0891 333 110 Skicodes: For a fax list of 180+ resort codes: 0990 100 843 CANADA Powder, groomed powder 100% 30.12 180 180 SKI SNAPSHOT FRANCE 98% 25.12 70 200 95% 25.12 80 230 100% 25.12 140 220 At-a-glance fax guide to snow alterGood conditions conditions at 180+ resorts worldwide: ITALY 0897 500 601 Sazze d'Oubt......Superb top to bottom SelvaSome aroficial snow VigoGood cover throughout SKIFAX
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Dons fear Gradi's history lesson

In Saturday's FA Cup third round Wimbledon visit Crewe, a side managed by a man who helped to mould them. Phil Shaw saw him first

imbledon have come a long way since Dario Gradi joined them as a freshfaced reserve and vouth coach nearly two decades ago. In those days they were Fourth Division makeweights, struggling to make ends meet at Plough Lane. Now they are Premiership heavyweights, struggling to make ends meet at Sel-hurst Park.

In one of his earliest matches on being promoted to manager, 19 years ago this month, Gradi was thankful for a 0-0 draw at Crewe pionship challengers.

For it was during his reign that Alexandra before 1,800 souls. The height of the Dons' ambition then was to escape the re-election zone in their first season after graduating from the Southern League. On Saturday, when a full house assembles to see the fixture recreated in the third round of the FA Cup, victory for Gradi's Crewe side would rank as a major giant-killing feat.

For Gradi, now remarkably in his 14th year at Gresty Road and newly contracted until 2007, the chance to pit his principles and prodigies against top-flight opposition who just happen to be his former employers make it the perfect tic. His only regret that Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, will not be present as Crewe set out to prove that other small fry have also made substantial waves.

"I rang Sam as soon as I heard the draw and he told me he wouldn't be able to come because he'd booked a skiing holiday," Gradi said. "He couldn't cancel it because he's got family coming from all over the world. I said: Right, I'm coming with you because I want to see your face vhen we humiliate you!

The friendship dates back to the late 1970s when Hammam, a Lebanese businessman with interests in London, joined the Wimbledon board. "Sam got bitten by the football bug," recalled Gradi. or training أن الك Whenever he came over from had people turning.

Saudi we took him with us to matches. We had to explain the offside rule to him several times, but he had this terrific enthusiasm."

Gradi was already established as manager, having been promoted by Ron Noades, who was chairman in SW19 before moving over to Crystal Palace. Though he plays down his role, the former England amateur international laid the foundations for Wimbledon's extraordinary rise to become cham-

Dave Bassett, who eventually led them into the former First Division, was elevated from the playing ranks to be assistant manager. "I don't claim the credit for that." Gradi said. "Ron Noades always recognised Dave's ability. I came to see that it would be a good appoint-ment and it worked very well."

The "Crazy Gang" mentality was a reflection of Bassett's personality. Hammam, understanding its value in terms of team spirit, carried it on. "It's not my way," Gradi said, "though I don't knock it because it has worked for them."

Yet it was Gradi who effectively launched the gang show by blooding Wally Downes at 17, re- it behind the scenes through my ascruiting Alan Cork from Derby reserves and signing Dave Beasant from Edgware. "He trained with us for a week and he was poor. But Dave Bassett had a feeling for him so we played him in the reserves at Brighton, and I got Mike Kelly, the goalkeeping coach, to go and stand behind the goal. He came back and said 'I'd sign him'. So we did, for £750 plus a set of strip."

Gradi's task was to turn a bunch of rough diamonds into a "proper" League team. "It was an exciting time because we were able to build a new club. They'd gone in thinking they could succeed as part-timers, but they c uldn't. We

at all hours and I couldn't say anything to them because they had their jobs to think about.

"The good ones went full-time and we stuck with one semi-pro. Dave Donaldson. He was an air-traffic controller at Heathrow. aged about 36, and he just used to ask when and where we were playing and say: 'See you there.'
Long before Beasant made his-

tory, saving a penalty and lifting the Cup itself as captain in 1988, Gradi had become history at Wimbledon. Following a brief reunion with Noades at Palace, he began his long affair with Crewe. He is possibly unique in having

been "not at all surprised" about either the shock Wimbledon gave Liverpool at Wembley or the way they continue to mock predictions of their demise. "I said at the time that they'd win the Cup with a set-play, and they did. As for being a force in the Premiership, I don't have to pinch myself because when I was manager and Sam joined the board, we drew up a five-

year plan to get to that level.
"I really did see it developing because we had such a good youth scheme. I've also been a party to sociation with Sam. We used to discuss Wimbledon's woes on the phone, but now he has the experience to handle them himself. We still talk - mostly about Crewe's problems - though I usually have to spell out my name when I ring their switchboard."

The clubs have yet to do transfer business. As Gradi points out. his players, schooled in a passing game, are not ideal for the muscular directness Wimbledon have tended to favour. "Although," he added, "when I told Sam that we'd got a big coloured boy here, a striker who was 6ft 4in and 15st, he said straight away: 'I'll take him. A million'."

along with other targets for the big clubs such as Gareth Whalley, the captain, and Danny Murphy, an England Under-19 international. After selling Wayne Collins to Sheffield Wednesday and Neil Lennon to Leicester – the latest in a line of home-produced gems that have included David Platt and Rob

Jones - Gradi again has a stylish side pushing for First Division status. Could they, in time, emulate Wimbledon? "I don't think so. There aren't many Sam Hammans about. He's had to underwrite it almost single-handedly, and he's not that rich a man that he can gamble all his family's money. We're the opposite of that, a very democratic club where we all sit round a table and the majority wins, but no one here has a lot of money

"There is a similarity between us in that they've got the problem we've got: not being able to balance the books, though having said that we don't owe anyone anything at the moment. It's very difficult for Wimbledon to keep competing against clubs like Manchester United or Arsenal who are awash with cash. The only way they can break even is by selling players - exactly like us."

For that reason, as well as for old time's sake, Gradi derives great satisfaction from seeing Wimbledon thriving "from a football point of view, if not commercially". The revenue from satellite television and sponsorship have created the possibility, he fears, of the rich becoming so rich that "no one can stand up to them".

Whatever the reality of their financial situation, Wimbledon will be forced into the unfamiliar role of members of a wealthy élite on Saturday. Their prospects of progress may depend, ironically, on how successfully they summon the spirit which Dario Gradi helped to foster in those far-off days at Dele Adebola is still at Crewe. Plough Lane.



Dario Gradi makes his principles clear to his prodigies at Gresty Road

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Dario Gradi took over as Wimbledon manager in January 1978 and is pictured here with his side in that first season in the Football League

TODAY'S MAJOR FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

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1. Arsenal v Middlestmus 2 Chelsea v Liverpool 4 Derby v Sheffield Wednesday Off

Eventon v Blackburn (5.45) Manchester Utd v Aston Villa (8.0) ... 6 Newcastle v Leeds. S West Ham v Nottingham Forest...... 32 Walsall v Bristol City

Nationwide Football League First Division Barnsley v Oldhai 10 Birmingham v Manchester City...... 11 Bolton v Bradford . 12 Charlton v Ipswich

14 Huddersfield v Stoke. 16 Oxford Utd v Grimsby 17 Port Vale v Southend 19 Swindon v QPR

Second Division 21 Brentford v Wycomba 22 Bristol Rovers v Plymouth ... 23 Burnley v Chesterfield ... 24 Crewe v Millyall 25 Luton v Bury . 26 Notts County v BournemouthOff 30 Shravistrury v Blackpool.

Third Division 33 Colchester v Leyton Unent 34 Darlyngton v Carlsie ... 36 Hartiepool v Hull 37 Lincoln v Wigan 38 Mansfield v Fulham .

39 Northampton v Cardiff...... Rochdale v Hereford. Scarborough v Cambridge UtdOff - Swansea v Doncaster. - Torousy y Snighton... **GM Vauxhall Conference**

Bath v Famborough .. Bromsgrove v Kiddenninsterlass Dover v Welling .. Macclesfield v Altrincham ... Northwich v Halifax (2.0)

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 40 Dundee Utd v Aberd 41 Dunfermline v Raith ... 42 Hibernian v Hearts

First Division 44 East Fife v Stirling 45 Falkiri. v Ardrie 46 Monon v St Mirren (2.0) 47 Partick v Clydeba

cond Division 49 Ayr v Stranraer... Civde v Brechin

Third Division Alloa v East Stirling . Arbroath v Cowdenbeath Montrose v Forfar . Queen's Park v Albion Rovers.....Insp Ross County v Inverness C TOff tasp: Pitch inspections due to take place that morning (Other matches are also fively to de nerd upon plich inspections please check be

TEAM SHEET

Arsenal v Middlesbro

Doon (ankle) and Platt (harnstring) Valit is out with itu, so Chelsea man-have lost their battles to be fit, so man-ager Werger looks set to field the tearn change. Either Mintto or Myers will be held to a 2-2 draw by Aston Villa on recalled in place of left-back Phelan, Robson is polsed for a comeback 10 is again doubtful; Berger is on stand-days short of his 40th birthday be-cause of a crippling injury list.

Wingst if he fields a test on a back strain.

Man Utd v 🧷 Aston Villa

Last season: 0-0 Last five League matches: Man Last five League matches: I Utd DDWWW; Aston Villa WWWLD castle DLDLW; Leeds DDDLL United manager Ferguson may recall Winger Gillespre has been passed fit, £7m striker Cole, who is close to his allowing Keegan to name an unfirst Premiership start of the season following two substitute appearances. Out hamstring victims Ginola and edefinitely without defendancers Pallister (back) and Phil Neville, out for a month with glandular fever. Tiler is standing by for a recall to the Villa side.

Southampton LIWL: Wambledon WWWLW

Taylor, signed from Barnet yesterday, could go straight into the Southampton side for goalkeeper Beasent. Sants boss, Souness, must decide whether tack in place of Yeboah, who has a hamstring problem and is doubtful along with Sharpe (groin).



Liverpool Last season: 2-2

matches: Arse- Last five League matches: C sbrough LDLWL DLWWD; Liverpool WWDDW Doxon (ankle) and Platt (hamstring) Vialli Is out with flu, so Chelsea man-

Last season: 2-1

Coventry v Sunderland (

Rushden v Kettering

Slough v Szevenage

Last five League matches: Coven try LWWW; Sunderland LWLWL Coventry manager, Strachan, was forced to postpone training yesterday to give his flu victims time to re-cover and to keep the virus away from the rest of the team. Sunderland's leading scorer, Russell, is expected

Southampton v Wimbledon Last season: 0-0

Last five League matches: Southampton LLWLL; Wimbledon



Last season: 1-0 Last five League matches: Ever ton DWDLL; Blackburn WDLWD Blackburn goalkeeper, Flowers, facer a late fitness test. Rovers are with-out midfielder Flitcroft through injury, but have Warhurst (harnstning), who has not played for four months. Ever-ton give a debut to Phelan following his £850,000 move from Chelsea.

West Ham v A Last season; 1-0

Last five League matches: We Ham DLDLW; N Forest DLWLD Full-back Breacker is back in the squad after a harnstring injury and will com-pete with Bowen for a place at right-back, while Monour has recovered from the calf strain. Forest caretaker boss Pearce, has added 21-year-old strik

O'Donnell relaxed for Ibrox

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

The Celtic midfielder Phil O'Donnell believes that those who keep the coolest head amid the mayhem at Rangers tomorrow night will triumph.

Celtic go into the New Year derby at Ibrox without a win over their rivals in the last eight meetings and needing to close a gap which stands at 11 points. Rangers having played two more matches.

"We all know how big a game it is and we are trying to prepare in the right way," said O'Donnell, who is very much in line to make the side chosen by Tommy Burns after playing three games in eight days following a four-month absence. The 24-year-old O'Donnell insists calmness will be needed

lions of satellite TV viewers. "A couple of the Old Firm games I have been in, maybe I've been a wee bit tense and tight," he said. "You don't do yourself any favours. If you go out re-laxed while giving 100 per cent you can do yourself justice." Like O'Donnell, Paul McStay

in front of 50,000 fans and mil-

is back in Celtic's plans after coming through a successful re-turn in Saturday's 4-2 win over Dunfermline. There are doubts, however, over the fitness of Peter Grant, Jackie McNamara

and Andreas Thom. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, is able to call on Trevor Steven and Joachim Biorklund, while Alan McLaren had the benefit of a rest at the weekend following his return from a long injury lay-off.

Football DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Di

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bishoo's

Remotev v Oldhert

S Brentford v Man City

Crewe v Wimbledon

14 Lutor v Bolton

10 Crystal Palace v Leeds

15 Middlesbrough v Chester

17 Plymouth v Peterborough

16 Norwich v Sheff Utd...

18 OPR v Hudderslield

19 Reeding v Southampt 20 Sheff Wed v Grmsby 21 Stoke v Stockport

22 Watford v Oxford Utd ..

Second Division

26 Bury v Styrewsbury.

Third Division

27 Brighton v Exeter.

29 Doncaster v Rochdale ...

Also playing inot on coupons): Covertry v Wok-ing, Nedresford v York City, Nodon Forest v Ipswich, Severage v Burningham (at Birm-ingham City FC).

mide Footbali Leagu

28 Campidge Utd • Northempton

Playing Senday: Chanton v Newcastle ton v Swindon, Manchester United v I ham, Notis County v Asion Villa.

leki v Bristoi City

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

BR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Athersone y Nureaton; Bridock y King's Lyrn; Cambridge City v Sudbury Tour; Chelmsford v Hastings; Chelterham v Haleowen Town; Crawley v Astron; Dorchester v Menthy Tydfi; Gresley; Rovers v Burton; Newport AFC v Salishur; Sittingbourne v Gravesent & Northfleet; Worcaster v Gloucester. Southern Divisions Conderford v Weston-super-Mene; Chencester v Forest Green Rovers; Clevedon v Yalle; Dartford v Margate; Fishern Pivisions Conderford v Meston-super-ham; Hawart v Weymouth; Newport (IoW) v Bashley; St Leonards Stameroft v Tonbridge; Waterlooville v Trowbridge; Witney v Buckingham Town, Madand Divisions: Bed-worth v Shepshed Dynamo; Dorby v Raunds; Dudley v Bilston; Eveshem v VS Rugby; Moor Green v Sutton Coldfeld: Paget Rangars v Schrindl Borough; Racing Club Warwick v Redditch; Rothwell v Grantham; Stourbridge v Stafford Rangers; Tarmworth v

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Cray v Crockenhili (2.15); Lordswood v Beckenha (2.0); Sheppe, v Chatham (3.0); Whitstab

POOLS FORECAST FA Cup third round

32 Hull v Coiches 33 Leyton Orient v Mansfield. 34 Wigon v Hartle Also playing (not on coupons): Barnet v Lincoln, Cardiff v Scurtthorne. Playing Sunday: "Fulham v Sw panel votel. Roll's Scottish Lengue

Premier Division 35 Aberdeen v Dunferni 37 Dundee Utd v Kilmamock. 40 Airdné v Greenock Morror

41 East File v St Joh 42 Falkerk v Clydeben 43 Partick v Stirling . 44 St Mirren v Dundes Tennents Scottish Cup Second round 47 Ross County v Montrose

49 Strantaer v Invernesa C. Trisde... Also playing (not on coopons): Ayr v Chde, Berwick v Pelerhead, East Suring v Brora Rangers, Forfar v Alloa, Quoen's Park v Gala Fahydean, Spartans v Arbroain, Whitehill v Queen of South.

Four draws: Crystal Palace v Leeds United Norwich - v Shelfield United, Reading Southampton, St Mirren v Dundee. Five aways: Wimbledon, West Ham, Rangers, Hearts, Dumbarton Ten homes: Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Michelsbrough, Wolverhampton, Brighton, Fulham, Leyton Orient, Aberdeen, Collic.

UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Divisions Burgless Hill v Calmood; Eastbourne Town v Southunds; Langney v Haisham (7.30); Mile Calk v Seitopean; Peacehaver & Telscombe v Whitehawic Rangmer v Hassocks (7.30); Shoreham v Selsey; Three Purdsex v Harsham V MCA- Milek v Pasham SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE Treathant Town v Proje (12,30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divi-

SMIRHOUTE MASH LEMENT COleraine v Lin-field: Glemtoran v Ards; Portadown v Crusaders, First Division: Ballyclare v Bangor v Crusaders, First Division: Ballyclare v Bangor v Camagh v Lame. HARP LAGER LEAGUE OF BELAND CIP Final second leg: Carl (2) (1) v Galasy Utd (3) (1.30).

Rugby League
FRIENDLY MATCHES: Dwebury v Ballry
(1.0): Keighley v Huddersleid (3.0); St Helens v Wigan (3.0).

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH: Emerging Wales v USA (2.30) (at Cardiff Arms Park). CLUB MATCHES: Pyde v Backpool (2.30) Hartiepool Rovers v West Hartiepool (2.15)

Other sports DARTS: WDC World Championship (Puries) Essex). In view of the adverse ventior condition speciators are advesed to thick with vention before travelling to any citidoor fedures.

> TODAT'S NUMBER 13

The position in the Internal tional Tennis Federation world rankings occupied by Britain's Martin Lee in the boys' singles. He also end ed the year ranked fourth boys' doubles. Sebastial Grosjea, of France, is the world No 1 in both events

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Bath must c

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Lydon to grea

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TRE 102

Lydon moves on to greater glories

DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan will go into their game with St Helens today without one of their dominant figures of recent years in their camp. Joe Lydon resigned yesterday as the club's football manager, a role he took on after a glittering playing career at Central Park.

He is now expected to take charge of youth development for the Rugby League, a role vacant since John Kear's departure for Sheffield. "I have several other options open to me and I will be considering them all," Lydon said. "I have been at Wigan for the last 11 years and I am proud to have played my part as player, coach and manager at a chib that has gained so much success."

Paul Anderson, the 19-yearold whose form as a back-row forward was one of the highlights of the Great Britain Academy tour of New Zealand this autumn, will be entrusted with St Helens' stand-off role this afternoon.

Mike Catt, the England stand-

off, will again be ruled out by

injury when the champions,

Bath, resume their Courage

League campaign against Sara-

cens at the Recreation Ground

on Saturday, weather permit-

ting. Catt's international colleague

Adedayo Adebayo begins his

comeback, however, after com-

pleting the mandatory three

week lay-off because of con-

The wing Adebayo, capped against Italy last month, was

sidelined for Argentina's visit

to Twickenham following a

clash of heads with the Harle-

quins full-back, Jim Staples, sev-

en days earlier. He will play in the Bath second team at Sara-

cens, but Catt's chest problem

still has not cleared up, so

Rugby Union

The second leg of the Norweb Winter Challenge between the two old rivals is subject to a pitch inspection at 9am this morning. If it goes ahead, Saints will start 10 points down and still without their regular No 6, Karle Hammond, who is mourning the

death of his younger brother. "Paul is really a second row-er, but he has very good skills," Shaun McRae, the Saints coach, said. He carries out a second experiment by playing Andy Northey at hooker, but has high hopes Bobbie Goulding will return after missing the first leg with a back injury and Paul Newlove and Chris Morley will recover from strains and knocks picked up at Central Park.

McRae admits that his side was flattered by the 10-point deficit from that match, but beheves home advantage now leaves the contest wide open. The evidence of last season is that home ground is worth about 15 points in matches between the two clubs," he said. "It is now perfectly balanced."

Bath must cope without Catt

Richard Butland will deputise.

erico Mendez spent Christmas

at hooker, packing down with Dave Hilton and Victor Ubogu.

Dan Lyle, on tour duties, Nigel

Redman resumes his second-

row partnership alongside Mar-

tin Haag, and Scottish interna-

tional Eric Peters returns at

Glanville, and Jeremy Guscott

form the midfield combination,

while Jon Sleightholme and Ja-

Toulouse, the European

son Robinson complete an im-

champions, are sweating on

the fitness of French interna-

tionals Emile Ntamack and

Thomas Castaignède for Sat-

urday's Heineken Cup semi-fi-

The wing Ntamack, who cap- ground.

nal at Leicester.

pressive threequarters unit.

The England captain, Phil de

open-side flanker.

With the US Eagles captain,

The Argentinian import Fed-

in South America, but is back has not played since the quar-

West was delighted with the way a string of young reserves performed in the first leg. They will have to maintain the same standard, although the squad could be strengthened by the return of Nigel Wright after flu.

Leeds have continued their restructuring with the acquisition, on a six-month secondment, of one of Australia's leading backroom men. Rudi Meir will join the club within the next two weeks as conditioning and skills co-ordinator to work alongside the coach, Dean Bell. in preparing the side for the Super League season.

An amateur team have been thrown out of the Challenge Cup for playing two registered professionals, Rob Hutchinson, of Hull KR, and Darren Grice, of Featherstone, in their first-round victory. Norland, from Humberside, beat Milford 34-20 but, following a protest from Milford, had the result overturned by the Rugby League, who reinstated the

tained Toulouse to victory over

Cardiff in last season's final, is

troubled by a pelvic injury. He

ter-final success in Dax more

than six weeks ago, while the

centre Castaignède is strug-

last Saturday's postponement of

their home National League

match against Llanelli cost the

off 30 minutes before the sched-

uled 2.30 kick-off time because

both sets of players refused to

play on the frosty pitch, al-

though both club committees

appeared to favour the match

Newport, himself a former top-

class centre, had no alternative

other than to call the match off

as spectators poured into the

The referee, Peter Bolland of

The match was finally called

Hard-up Neath are claiming

gling with rib problems.

club around £15,000.

starting.



صكنا س الاجل

her trademark forehand during her 7-6, 6-1 defeat of Australia's Nicole Bradtke in the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. However, the victory proved to be in vain as, with the tie level at 1-1, Mark Philippoussis and Bradtke teamed up to win the Photograph: Mogens Johansen/AP

Mary Pierce, of France, playing in her first tournament since September, produces

Crew fight on in 'icy Jacuzzi'

STUART ALEXANDER

While the first eight of the 14-strong fleet in the BT Challenge round the world race were able to celebrate New Year ashore. the crew of Courtaulds still had 300 miles to go and were experiencing what they described as the worst conditions of the entire second leg from Rio de Janeiro to Wellington. They were not alone, with the

largely disabled crew of Time & Tide reported to be battling on in what was an icy Jacuzzi on deck as waves whipped up by the 60-knot winds of Hurricane

Fergus broke all over the boat. The yachts who reached New Zealand yesterday were Merfyn Owen (Global Teamwork), Richard Merriweather (Commercial Union) and Tom O'Connor (Pause to Remember) and Richard Tudor (Nuclear Electric).

There was then a 140-mile Horn.

arrived at the Chatham Islands in time for their own celebration, but were stopping only to refuel. They will then motor sail to Wellington where they will receive a new mast. The whole fleet is to be re-rigged following the problems which have beset many of the boats on the 6,600-mile voyage round Cape

gap to Paul Bennett in Ocean

over nearly 400 miles.

Rover, with the rest strung out

The dismasted Concert had

SPORTING DIGEST

American football

ARREPREAM TOPENAM!

Brest Favre, the Green Bay Packers quarterback, on Monday became only the second player to win the NFL's top Individual award in consecutive years. He received 52 of the 93 votes by American sports writers to win the Most Valuable Player of the year accolade. Favre joined Joe Montana (1989-90) as the only winner of two straight MVPs. Othonly winner of two straight MVPs. Other two-time winners were Steve Young (1992, '94), John Unitas (1964 and '67), and Jim Brown (1957 and '65).

Baskethall

NBA: Cleveland 108 Minnesota 96; Denoit 97 Orlando 85; New York 98 New Jersey 86; Waler-ington 92 Chaldete 101; Chrago 81 Indicar 79; Houston 99 Secrite 91; Denier 102 Beston 104; Procena 100 Secramento 83; Variaturer 88 Sen Antonio 95; LA Clippes 115 Utah 101.

.871 .759 .655 .593 .552 .517 .464 .345

.800 -.759 1½ .370 12½ .400 12 .267 16 .259 15½ .194 18½ 9 .710 -7 .656 1½ 15 .516 6 18 .419 9 18 .379 10 19 .367 10½ 19 .345 11

NHL Detroit 3 Phoena: 5; Ottawa 3 Anahem 4 Iot); Pittsburgh 5 Washington 3; Toronto 2 NY Islanders 0; Dellas 2 NY Rangers 3; Ed-morton 2 Los Angeles 1.

Pools dividends

POOLS CITY/ICENOS.
LITTLEWOODS: 28 December: Trable chance 23pts 2273,652.90, 22 £2.546.20, 21 £283.25, 20 £33.55. Half-time: No client with max 24pts. The £250,000 allocated to this dividend as equally divided among the full time results.

28 December: Treble chance, 24pts £107,845.55, 23pts £618.80, 22pts £49.55, 21pts £10.45. Half-time: 23pts £22,900.75.
VERNONS: 28 December: Treble chance: VERNONS: 28 December: Treble chance: 24pts £59,861,60, 23 £370,20, 22 £57.75. Super Shots £32.65. Premier 10 £145.05 (paid on nine correct).

Eric Miller, the 23-year-old Leicester flanker, is the only new cap in Ireland's team to play Italy at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. The team shows two

changes compared to the one defeat-ed by Australia last month, with Miller coming on at open-side flanker instead of Denis McBride, whale Conor O'Shea replaces the injured Jim Staples at full-

back.

IRELAND (v Itely, Lansdowne Road, Dublin, Saturday); C O'Slee (London Inst); J Topping (Balgmens), J Bell (Northampton), M MicCell (Dungarmen); D Crothy (Gamyosen); P Burise (Brisnol); S Melver (Gamyosen); P Popplewell (Newcastle); K Wood (Harleques); capt; P Wallecc (Saracers); G Richer (London Inst); J Devideon (London Inst); D Corteety (Brisnol); E Miller (London Inst); D Corteety (Brisnol); P London (London Inst); D Corteety (Brisnol); P Holter (Brisnol); P Johns (Brenners); P Flaste (Blackrock College); A Clerke (Northampton).

Emma Carrick-Anderson will be one Briton making good use of the Arctic conditions across Europe when she opens up her World Cup campaign in a slalom at Manbor, Slovenia, on Sat-urday. Carrick-Anderson is hoping to make the top 30 in the first run de-soite a low start number likely to be make the top 30 in the first run de-spite a low start number likely to be in the fifties in order to quality for the second run. However, after two wins in FIS races and a third place in Pia-cavalli where she split the Italian women's A team, she is confident of making the vital breakthrough.

Squash
Yorkshire's Simon Parke has followed up his return to the poston as the national his return to the poston as the national No 1 with promotion to No 5 on the new world ranking list issued yesterday. The world champion, Jansher Khan of Pakistan, maintains his domination of the No 1 position but by the smallest marting in many than them them.

NO 1 postron but by the smallest mar-gin in more than three years. WORLD RANKINGS Leading positions: Non: 1.Jarsher Kran (Pali); 2 R Evise (Aust; 3 P Nicol (Soo); 4 C Walker (Eng); 5 S Parke (Eng); 6 J Power (Can); 7 A Berada (Eg); 8 B Mattor (Aust; 9 D Harrs (Eng; 10 Julian; Intra (Pal), Women 1.5 Finderato (Aust; 2 M Mattor (Aust; 3 C Jack; Man (Eng); 4 S Wingtot (Eng); 5 S Homer (Eng); 6 L Ivong (Aust; 7 C Owers (Aust; 3 S Schone (Gert; 9 C Nitch (SA); 10 F Geaves (Eng).

QAZAR OPEN (Doba) Mem's singles, first round: S Bruguera (Sp) bt M Shich (Ger) 6-3 6-1; T Muster (Auri bt H Gurry (Arg) 7-5 6-4; P Nords (2; Rep) bt S Sman ffri F 1-6-2; C Ruad (Nor) bt Sultan Arestan (Denar) 6-2 6-0; R Sabau (Rom) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-3-3-6 7-6; J Couner (US) bt S Schalsen (Nerb) 7-6 7-5; J Senchez (Sp) bt G Racur (Ff 6-3-4-6-4; M Norman (Swe) bt JA Viloca (Sp) 6-3-6-0.

M Norman (Swe) bt JA Viloca (So) 6-3 6-0.
HOPMAN CLIP (Pertit) Group & Australia bit France 2-1. (Aus mames first) Singles: N Bradite lost in M Pierce 6-7 1-6: M Philippussis in G Forget 7-6 6-2. Doubles: Philippussis and Bradite bit Forget and Pierce 7-6 7-6.
AUSTRALIAN HARDCOURT: CRAIMPRONSINDS (Adelaide) First round: T Johansson (Swe) bit G Blanco (So) 6-4 6-3; P Rather (Aus) bit J Saizenstan (US) 6-4 6-3; P Saiter (Aus) bit J Saizenstan (US) 6-4 6-3; P Saiter (Aus) bit N Denmi (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-3; 6 (Wittach (Cz Rep) 6-3 Redidecut (Ger) 6-3 3-6 6-5; J Bjorkman (Swe) bit N Kufliswell (Swe) 7-5 6-1; K Nucan (Slovek) in S Stole (Aus) 6-1 4-6 6-0.

(ALS) 6-1.4-6.6-0.

GOLD COAST CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Hope Island, Aue) First round: A Cartson (Swe) bt A Miller (US) 7-8.6-3; M Oremans
son (Swe) bt A Miller (US) 7-8.6-3; M Oremans
6-4.6-4; C Cristee (Rom) bt H Suleave (Cr Rep)
6-4.6-4; J Kandair (Ger) bt P Schroyder (Swi)
6-4.6-4.6-7

6-4 6-3.

NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURMANENT (Auchdand) First nound: A Huber (Ger)
by F Lubrani (fü 6-3 6-3; J Wiesner (Aut) by G
Heigeson Nielsen ((15) 6-1 6-3; LWid (US) tot
D Randmantely (Wind) 2-6 6-1 6-3; M Wengartner (Ger) to B Schett (Aut) 6-4 6-4; F Labet (Aug) to Leon Garcia (Sp) 6-4 6-4; R Harak
(Japan) by D van Roost (Bel) 6-3 0-6 6-2; A
Dechaume Bellerst (Fr) by K Keshwendt (Aug)
7-6 7-5; T Tanasugam (Thei) by A Fuse (Fr) 62 6-1; S Cacle (US) by I Gornochstegu (Aug) 83 7-5; P by-Boukas (Can) by I watanabe (US)

INDEPENDENT

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

HE DUNKAN FULLER 531 THE GREAT ESCAPER ALLYE MEN FROM UNCLE 2

THE INDEPENDENT %INDEPENDENT

oday we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 20 (Wk 20) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 23 December - Sunday 29 December inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 29 December. Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for

ON SUNDAY

dependent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday. in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every

a draw
Lose 1 point for a yellow card Lose 3 points

Dels make things better

ditions are as previously published and are available

matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 22 December. Results will be published every-Wednesday in The In-

Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and con-4 points for a goal 🔳 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays = 1 point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for

upon request.

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the imate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qual-

ifying games at Wembley. Congratulations to our fourth month's winner Rick Yap from West End, Oxford who has scored 167 points with his team Out Of Mind. He has won a pair of tickets to see England play Italy on the 12 February 1997. The fourth months prize is for matches played between 25 November and 22 De-

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 22 DECEMBER; WEEK 19 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 16 - 22. DECEMBER

Bosnich
Flowers
Kharine
Kharine
Hitchco
Ogrizovi
Filan
Southali
Martyn
James
Pook
Hoult
Schneic
Walsh
Hoult
Schneic
Walsh
Fressnie
Coxon
Welker
Mijkoski
Sullivan
Welker

sport

Manchester United to win the title, Australia to blaze through the Ashes series, no Grand Slam title for Henman, but golf could have a young champion. Independent writers look at the year ahead

1997: The shape of things to come

FOOTBALL Glenn Moore

Time to bring on the Italians

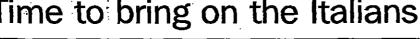
Another 20 Italians will be heading for these shores in 1997, but most will be seeking points not pounds. After a year dominated by a summer tournament, English football returns to its winter roots, with the two most significant dates in February and October. That is when England meet Italy, home and away, in the quest for a place in the 1998 World Cup.

The February tie, at Wembley, will be Italy's first under new management. Cesare Maldini will need all of his son Paulo's defensive virtues if Italy are to end Glenn Hoddle's impressive start. He will also need good minders off the pitch as the hotel could be overrun by English agents and managers.

An English victory then, and a point or more in Poland in May, will virtually ensure England finish in the top two. A further point in Italy on 11 October would clinch first place and avoid the trauma of a play-off.

Bizzirrely, there will be one other Anglo-Italian meeting, in France in the summer. Brazil will also feature in a pre-World Cup tournament which will be as much a test of security as foot-

Scotland's key matches are in April, when they host Austria public's fate is likely to be decided in October, when Romania visit Dublin. The North wind up their campaign in Portugal the same night but, by then, the re-





Paulo Maldini: Aiming to come to his father's defence

sult may be academic. As for Wales, the big question is whether Bobby Gould will still be in a job by then.

The internationals are important, but they will relegated to the back burner while the Premiership builds up to what could be a third successive last-day finish. Manchester United are looking ominously good and

supporters of their rivals may, for once, want them to defeat Porto in March in the hope that the European Cup will distract them. If Newcastle and Liverpool are similarly affected, Arsenal may sneak in. In the autumn there may be the de-lightful prospect of Wimbledon

king on Europe. Two important posts have to

Champagne cocktails all round

or another depressing pile of sackcloth and ashes? British

rugby will happily forget all

tary phenomenon.

RACING

up, it seems the Football Association may have favourably re considered Howard Wilkinson's credentials to be technical director. He may be associated with unimaginative football but, after two years of futile searching, a

compromise is required. It will be equally difficult to find a replacement for Rick Parry as chief executive of the Premier League. With pay-per-view approaching, Parry's calm and even-handed negotiating will be

So, too, will his concept of a game beyond the Premier League. While the big clubs look to more television loot, the likes of Brighton and Darlington are merely seeking to survive. Not for them the share issues of the fat cats. Nor will they be on Roberto Baggio's viewing list as he ponders a move from Serie A.

The year will end with the World Cup draw - what price England to be paired with ieny Venables' Australia?

Predictions (in descending order of probability): Champions: Manchester United. England and Scotland to qualify for the World Cup. Liverpool to win European Cup-Winners' Cup. Kidderminster to replace Darlington. Ravanelli to join Manchester United. Kinnear to be offered Tottenham job. Chelsea to win FA Cup. Baggio to join Newcastle while Ferdinand goes to Aston Villa.

CRICKET

With just a single Test win in 1996, it has been a less than exhilarating year for England's Test cricketers, whose latest 0-0 draw against Zimbabwe has merely served to confirm a deep-rooted stagnation, which has been ignored as long as it has been suspect-

There is no doubt then that English cricket is in flux, both on and off the field, the latter due mainly to the formation of the new England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) under the chairmanship of Lord MacLaurin. He is charged with the task of rationalising an ailing and docile domestic system to the betterment of the national side. After their forthcoming tour of New Zealand, England meet Australia, their oldest of foes, for an Ashes summer.

Australia should win the Ashes, though England can be expected to take one of the Tests after the series has been settled. Michael Atherton is likely to be appointed for the first two Tests of the summer following what I predict will be an unconvincing 1-0 series win in New Zealand. If his side lose both those matches, he will surely not see the summer out

Over the six summer Tests, Glenn McGrath, Australia's opening bowler, can be expected to take more Ashes

McGrath can upstage Warne



just might be partly tamed by John Crawley and Nasset Hussain. Expect the latter to be Atherton's successor should England capitulate early on.

In county cricket, Warwickshire, with Allan Donald returned, should contest the head of the County Championship with Surrey and Leices tershire. I expect Durham will win a first-class game, while two from Owais Shah (Middiesex), Ashley Cowan (Essex) and James Kirtley (Sussex) will play for England in the final

if that sounds improbable, on the same day as David Gower celebrates his 40th birthday, a branch of Tesco's will open in Calcutta, as Lord MacLaurin strikes up an unlikely alliance with Jagmohan Dalmiya, India's cricketing power broker and selfstyled saviour of world cricket

Yet as other temples fall and MCC at last becomes bisexual, I expect one institution to remain intact, at least for another year, with Graham Gooch spurning the job as I predict will fall to Mike Gatting instead – and playing out his valedictory season with Essex. Expect him to finish again as the country's leading run-scorer.

Prediction: Australia to win Test series 4-1. Chris Lewis to model for Jean-Paul Gaultier in

ATHLETICS Athens the target

the World Championships n Athens (1-10 August), greater proportion of leadng athletes than did the 995 version. For the first time, the

nternational Amateur Athletic Federation is prize-money available in the competishare of the \$20m (£12.1m) available for the 1997 IAAF programme. The first IAAF champi-

onship to pay prize-mort-ey will be the world indoor event at Paris from 7-9 March. Britain has no defend-

ing champions in that competition, but Jonathan Edwards is one outdoor seeking to hang on to that jump gold, Kenny Harri-

title-holder who will be distinction in Athens, where he would no doubt relish a re-match with the American who beat him to the Olympic triple- Kelly Holmes: Golden prospects

Greece could also be where Kelly Holmes earns some of the greater success at 800 metres and 1500m which injury denied her at the Olympics. Britain's other Atlanta medallists apart from Edwards - Roger Black and the 400m relay team, Steve Backley, Denise Lewis and Steve Smith - all look capable of eaming further success.

The efficacy of Britain's newly established forum for its athletes, the British Athletes' Association, will be put to an early test when selections are announced for the 1997 European Cup competition, which will be in Turin from 21-22 June. The same city will host the world cross-country championships on 23 March, where Britain's Jon Brown, who took the Euro-

pean cross-country title in December, will seek a place in the top six against strong African opposition. A challenge of a different kind looms in Liévin, France, on

16 February, when Linford Christie, supposedly retired, is considering a run-out on the indoor track where he broke the 200m Another less orthodox challenge is planned for the Toronto Skydome, where Donovan Bailey, the Olympic 100m champi-

on, and Michael Johnson, Olympic 200m and 400m champi-

on, will race head-to-head over 300 metres. **Predictions:** The rise and rise of Kenya's young middle-distance marvel Daniel Komen; gold for Kelly Holmes; Linford Christie to run a 100m in under 10sec.

RUGBY UNION Lions offer optimism

traumas of 1996 if the Lions, managed by Fran Cotton and coached by Ian McGeechan, turn over the Springboks in South Africa this summer. But even if they succeed in a country where they have triumphed nly once in 11 visits since ure, where does 1891, the jubilation is likely to that leave Scotbe little more than a momen-Ireland

and Wales? When the Lions disband and At least the Li the individual nations resume ons tour will put the superpowers from south of pedestal during the equator, this year's story will summer be much the same as last year's. England play all three world leaders in the space of

Imperial reign at Cheltenham

You did not need to be Irish to to recapture from Pat Eddery the

appreciate either the victory of jockeys' championship which Imperial Call in the Gold Cup at everyone but turf aficionados

Cheltenham last March, or the seems to assume is still his. Det-

in shortly afterwards, the Godol- no direct benefit to racing and

phin stable which claimed its Levy yield seems sure to decline

first trainers' title in 1996 will once again this year. It is just

set out for the first time with a another difficult problem for Lord

healthy contingent of juveniles. Wakeham, British Horseracing That Godolphin no longer relies Board chairman and former

simply on Sheikh Mohammed's arch Tory chief whip, in a year

cheque-book to build up its which may well bring his polit-strength indicates that its ical enemies to power.

and once again their next cam- Predictions: Imperial Call to win

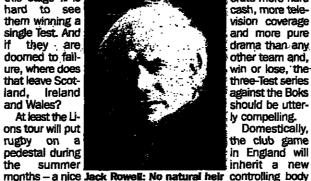
paign should be the best so far. the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Which will be good news for Space Trucker to win Champi Lanfranco Dettori, as he sets out on Hurdle.

growth curve has yet to peak,

change from last year, when men in smart suits rather than grubby jerseys cona month during the winter – indeed, they face New Zealand trived to put the game in the professional teams. Up until twice in three weeks - and at stocks. The Lions always gen-

Greg Wood



in England will inherit a new

drama than any

made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading now the two sides would have

other team and. seeable future, but one of the win or lose, the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a ainst the Boks complete lack of any realistic should be utterpretender to his throne, lan McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if rt. We shall see.

been happier slithering around

in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are go-

ing to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff

Perhaps the most intriguing

issue surrounds the long-term

successor to Jack Rowell as

England coach. Not that Jack

is likely to jump ship in the fore-

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa: England to pinch the Five Nations: and Leicester to win any two of the three major club tro-

RUGBY LEAGUE Dave Hadfield

Make or break for new order

at home and abroad, if it is to the between Super League and

jubilation which ensued in the tori's impact on the national conwinners' enclosure afterwards. sciousness was a major boost cuses run out. If we are still de- the TV remote control rather than More exciting still, though, was in a difficult year for racing, and bating next winter whether Super in court - throughout the year. the possibility that Impenal will no doubt be consolidated. League and summer rugby are eight years old today, still So too, though, will the ina success then the answer will lationship between the two has his best seasons ahead of fluence of the National Lottery be that they are not and never codes of rugby and how that will him. After no end of false on the betting public, with the will be. It is, therefore, a sea- develop now that union is opendawns, the country where jump launch of a midweek draw next son that demands positive think- ly professional and league - or ing, a healing of fault lines at least parts of it - is nervous. racing is a national obsession month. Britain's bookmakers are may have found an heir to Arkle, mounting a spirited rearguard between traditionalists and ina prospect which will warm action against the forces of nearts on both sides of the sea Camelot, with the recent launch on the run-in to the Festival. of their own numbers bet just When the Flat season kicks the latest skirmish, but it offers

of its success hinges on whether direction. There are those who al-the World Club Challenge cap-ready see re-absorption as a histures the imagination. Unwieldy torical inevitability. That would be and almost certainly temporary a tragedy, because the reasons as it is, the criss-crossing of the that some of us infinitely prefer globe by club sides is capable of league remain as valid as ever. doing so. The same goes for next autumn's Australian tour, al- Prediction: St Helens to show

This is the year in which rugby countries. That happy day is as league must sort itself out, both far away as ever, because the bathave a future worth the name. the Australian Rugby League will Domestically, this year the ex- continue - at the turnstile and

Of equal significance is the re-

In the short-term, there will be novators, amateurs and profes- a trickle of players lost; will Va'aiga sionals, idealists and pragmatists. Tuigamala ever be primarily a in the cause of mutual survival. Wigan player again, for instance? It will be, by design, an even Over the longer run, league longer season than the old win-needs to be strong and unified ter one, which was generally if some clubs are not to start agreed to be too long. And much thinking of moving in the same

though it cannot truly be called that they have the necessary rean Ashes tour until both sides can silience to retain the Stones Suselect from all players in their per League Championship.

MOTOR RACING Derick Allsop. Germans set to rule

world championship has already been sharpened opening race, in Australia on 9 March, the likelihood is we shall have a familiar scenario at the front: Williams versus Schumacher.

have been illuminated by the starry eyes of Stewart, Loiz and a revamped Arrows, and by the blaze of publicity surrounding Nigel Mansell's latest. ill fated coming.

A close season scarce v exists in modern Formula One and ITV. nev guardians of mechanical combat's too show on these shores, will be grateful for all the hype that can be mustered. When the racing begins, British drivers are going to be out of the picture.

Williams should agair be the team to beat, and Jacques Villeneuve's experience of the title contest last season ought to arm him with a crucial advantage over his new team-mate, Germany's Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

However. Frentzen's admirers will tell you he was once quicker than his compatriot. Michael Schumacher, and that he Michael Schumacher: Familiar foe might still be. Even if he

is nearly as quick as Schumacher, he may be too hot for the Frentzen has had a tendency to push his car over the limit

but that should not be necessary in a Williams. The critical factor could be how he copes with the expectations of his team who demonstrably signed him to beat Schumacher.

Ferrari are optimistic their latest creation will give Schumacher more muscle this year and, although the champion of 1994 and 1995 is characteristically cautious, a car remotely close to the capability of the Williams should be enough to return the title to its rightful owner.

Prediction: A supercharged contest for the title between Schu macher and Frentzen.

GOLF

Woods to come of age

The scary part about Tiger Woods being Year is how often he will win it in the future. He may have won an unprecedented third successive US Amateur title, picked up rookie endorsements of \$60m (£36m) and won two of his first seven pro events, but what about when he wins a major championship, several majors, the Grand Slam?

The even scarier part is that one of those wins came when he was suffering from a groin strain, the other a heavy cold. As Woods said: "i haven't played my best golf yet." Woods' first professional major will be th ssional major will be the US Masters in April. He has already played Augusta National twice and his long-hitting game is made for the place. Last year, Jack

Amold Palmer's tally of 10 Green Jackets. But Woods, 21 last Monday, will not steal the whole show. The US Open, at Congressional in June, will spotlight Nick Fal-do's desire to win that elusive title.

Nicklaus said Woods would surpass his and

The Open will put Colin Montgomene centre stage. It takes place in July at Royal Troon, where Monty's father is the club secretary. A major for the Scot is a far higher priority than a fifth Order of Merit.

And make no mistake, the Ryder Cup will be the Seve Ballesteros show, whether just captaining or playing, too. The Americans are once again dominating the world rankings while the Europeans are in transition. Anything could happen.

It can only be hoped that Jose Maria Olaz abal's rheumatoid arthritis will allow him to retum after not playing a tournament in over a year. But Canadian Randi Wilson, 9, will not touch a golf club. She holed in one with her first shot on a golf course but gave up after nine holes. "The first hole was great," she said, "but the rest of it sucked."

Prediction: Majors for Woods, Faldo, Mont-gomerie and Phil Mickelson, but not necessarily in that order.

ENNIS

Consolidation for Henman

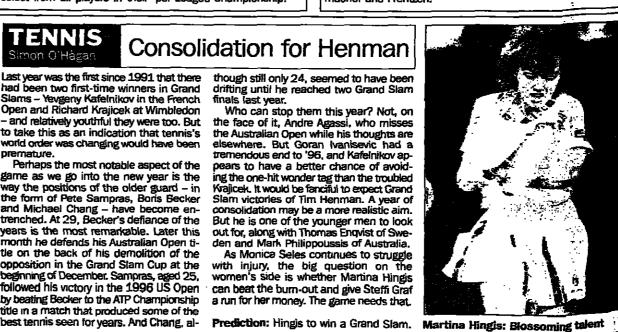
Last year was the first since 1991 that there had been two first-time winners in Grand Slams - Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the French Open and Richard Krajicek at Wimbledon and relatively youthful they were too. But to take this as an indication that tennis's world order was changing would have been

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the game as we go into the new year is the way the positions of the older guard - in form of Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Michael Chang - have become en-trenched. At 29, Becker's defiance of the years is the most remarkable. Later this month he defends his Australian Open title on the back of his demolition of the opposition in the Grand Stam Cup at the beginning of December. Sampras, aged 25, followed his victory in the 1996 US Open by beating Becker to the ATP Championship title in a match that produced some of the

though still only 24, seemed to have been drifting until he reached two Grand Slam finals last year.

Who can stop them this year? Not, on the face of it, Andre Agassi, who misses the Australian Open while his thoughts are elsewhere. But Goran Ivanisevic had a tremendous end to '96, and Kafelnikov appears to have a better chance of avoiding the one-hit wonder tag than the troubled Krajicek. It would be fanciful to expect Grand Slam victories of Tim Henman. A year of consolidation may be a more realistic aim. But he is one of the younger men to look out for, along with Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and Mark Philippoussis of Australia.

As Monica Seles continues to struggle with injury, the big question on the women's side is whether Martina Hingis can beat the burn-out and give Steffi Graf a run for her money. The game needs that,

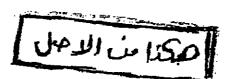


Tiger Woods: A major on the cards











THE INDEPENDENT WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 1997

Pick of the Day The Mill on the Floss 9pm BBC1

This current cycle of costume dramas, started by Middlemarch in 1995, develops a nice symmetry as George Eliot is once again called upon to provide the source material – this time, her earlier novel about the spirited daughter of a mill-house owner. This production, written by Hugh Stoddart and directed by Graham Theakston, is bracingly austere and intelligent, starring the unfamiliar but excellent Emily Watson and James Frain.





Pick of the Day The Tony Ferrino Phenomenon 9.20pm BBC2

Steve Coogan's latest creation – endlessly trailed on chat shows over the past few weeks – finally gets to take off in full flight. Ferrino is a spangly, sex-and-self-obsessed Portuguese crooner – and this showcase boasts some very funny and well-staged musical numbers, loads of deliberately awful double entendres, and much mirth at the expense of Eurotrash pop and TV. Mick Hucknall, Kim Wilde and Gary Wilmot play themselves and extend the joke.

New Year's Day television and radio

BBC₁

en wins

Tell sign

7.00 Children's BBC: Joe 90. 7.25 Playdays. 7.45
Postman Pat. 8.00 Peter Pan and the Pirates. 8.20
Bodger and Badger. 8.35 The Legend of Prince
Valiant. 9.00 Incredible Games. 9.25 Sweet Valley High. 9.50 Record Breakers Gold. 10.15 Blue

Peter Magic Moments. *

10.45 Sex Biglioot and the Hendersons (William Dear 1987 US). John Lithgow – he of Third Rock from the Sun - and his family go camping in the mountains and discover a shaggy beast - who then

decides to come home with them (12370401). * 12.30 Wipeout (S) (49826). 1.00 News and Weather (71686062). 1.08 Local News and Weather (96778772). 1.10 Neighbours (80660401). 1.30 The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends (R) (48197), *

2.00 Porridge (Dick Clement 1979 UK). So-so spin-off from the wonderful TV series finds the regulars all present and correct (77420), * 3.30 Global Sunrise. Cameras capture the rising of the sun on the same morning (1 January 1996) from

20 different locations throughout the world, through six continents and every time zone. Julian Petitier is your host (S) (6109333). *

4.50 Final Score (S) (1947710). 5.10 News and Weather (7431277). * 5.20 Regional News (9647130).

5.25 Tom and Jerry (1823517). 5.45 Neighbours. Stonie's birthday (S) (852420). * 6.10 ET: The Extra-Terrestrial (Steven Spielberg 1982 US). From a time when extra-terrestrials were considered benign, Spielberg's magical blockbuster about a lonely 10-year-old boy (Henry Thomas) who befriends an alien left on earth by a visiting spaceship (S) (66999642).

8.00 Ronnie Barker: A Life in Comedy. The Guv'nor, as David Jason used to - still does, probably - call him, gives his first television interview since he retired eight years ago. Among the clips from The Two Ronnies, Porridge and so on are plaudits from Jasons. Vicholas Lyndhurst, Michael Palin and Ronnie Corbett (S) (162389). *

8.40 News, Regional News and Weather (226771). * 9.00 The Mill on the Floss. See Pick of the Day, above (S) (18593802). *

11.05 Match of the Day. Highlights of Manchester
United's New Year's Day clash with Aston Villa at
Old Trafford.— plus all the goals from today's Premiership matches. Desmond Lynam and Trevor Brooking are on studio duty (S) (978420). *

12.10 Big Jake (George Sherman 1971 US). Surprisingly violent John Wayne western, an uneasy mixture of traditional Wayne-like stoics and heroics and modish Butch Cassidy-style shenanigans. The "Duke" plays an ageing Texan rancher who rides to the rescue when his ex-wife asks him to help find their kidnapped grandson. Richard Boone, Maureen O'Hara, Chris Mitchum and Patrick Wayne co-star (134591). 1.55 Weather (2815840). To 2.00am.

BBC2

7.30 Great Blockade (William Dieterle 1938 US). Henry Fonda and Madeleine Carroll fall in love against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War - a cause célèbre for ilberals in Hollywood, as elsewhere (5992604).

8.50 Fonda on Fonda. Jane Fonda hosts a tribute to

father, Henry (R) (2093333). 9.40 STATE My Darling Clementine (John Ford 1946 US). Fonda's Wyatt Earp and Victor Mature's Doc Holliday head for the OK Corral in this classic piece of Fordian mythologising (22538401).

11.15 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and a concert of Strauss policas, waitzes and marches. A simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (S) (6087468). 12.30 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures

Professor Conway Morris delivers his final lecture tracing the process of evolution (S) (33994). 1.30 Olympic Gymnastics. Highlights from the gymnastic events at this summer's Olympic Games

in Atlanta, With Barry Davies (34623).

2.30 New York City Ballet Sakutes George Balanchine, From 1993, as Viviana Durante and the New York City Ballet mark the 10th anniversary of the choreographer's death (S) (4902913).

3.55 EISS Willy Works and the Chocolate Factory (Mel Stuart 1971 US). Gene Wilder stars as the eccentric confectionery king who takes a group of youngsters and their guardians on a tour of his factory in this version of Roald Dahl's much-loved children's story (636178). *
5.30 Ski Sunday Special (S) (983536).
6.10 In the Eye of the Wind. David Attenborough

narrates the story of migrating birds (S) (626739). 7.00 Waiting for God. 1993's seasonal episode of the oldie sitcom (R) (S) (2333). *

7.30 University Challenge International Special. British champions Imperial College London taking on their American counterparts, the University of Michigan, for the title of International Champions (S) (5). * 8.00 The Travel Show Caribbean Special. With Amanda

Redman in Puerto Rico, the Independent's Simon Calder on the island of Dominica, and comedian Arthur Smith in Antigua (S) (467771). 8.40 Shooting Stars. Ex-Casualty star Clive Mantle joins Neil Morrissey, former Brookside lipstick lesbian

Anna Friel and 1970s rockabilly glamster Alvin Stardust for seasonal Vic 'n' Bobbery (107420). 9.20 The Tony Ferrino Phenomenon. See Pick of the Day, above (S) (989523).

10.10 Short Cuts (Robert Altman 1993 US). The Altman revival, started by The Player, continued with his filming of some of Raymond Carver short stories - turning them into an engrossing portmanteau movie looking at contrasting lifestyles of various Californian types. More Altman than Carver, really, but worthwhile. The cast includes Andie MacDowell, Tim Robbins, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Jack Lemmon (38168555). 1.15 Weather (5031227). To 1.20am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV (1184081). 9.25 Santo Bugito (S) (8225994). 9.50 Cartoon Time (2683623). 10.10 (2008) A Man for All Seasons (Fred Zinnermann 1966 UK). Robert Bolt's one-sided ding-doogbetween Henry VIII (Robert Shaw) and Sir Thomas More (Paul Scofield) brought respectfully to the screen Wendy Hiller, Susannah York, John Hurt and Orson Welles support (50731994). 12.30 News (25326449). 12.45 Celebrity Squares (S)

 1.15 Extent Silverado (Lawrence Kasdan 1985
US). Kasden's self-conscious and rather over-rated western about a mismatched quartet (Kevin Kline, Kevin Costner, Danny Glover and Scott Glenn) teaming up to save a run-down town from outlaws.

Jeff Goldblum, Rosanna Arquette and John Cleese also star (49001710). 3.40 Straight Talk (Barnet Kellman 1992 US). Country gal Dolly Parton trucks up in Chicago, is mistaken for a radio shrink, but wows them arryway with her down-home advice. James Woods and Griffin Dunne are also implicated

(350246). 5.20 News, Weather (6234771), * 5.35 Feds (Dan Goldberg 1988 US). Rebecca De Momay deserves and usually receives better parts than this - as one of a pair of female FBI recruits

dealing with male chauvinism (S) (1634791). *
7.00 Emmerdale. Sophie reluctantly faces up to the consequences of last night (S) (6159). * 7.30 Coronation Street. Mike and Alma's big dinner

party goes awry (81). * 8.00 Des O'Conner Tonight. The seasoned schmoozer's guests are Barbra Streisand, Damage, Jimeoin and

Ken Dodd (S) (6802). 9.00 First Die Hard (John McTiernan 1988 US). The original and still the best of these wham-bang-smash wallop marathons starring Bruce Willis as the LA cop who keeps mislaying his wife (Bonnie Bedelia). Alan Rickman steals the picture, though, as super-villain Hans Gruber (S) (66331555). *

11.25 News, Weather (185178). *
11.40 Lifepod (Ron Silver 1993 US). Sub-Alien sci-fi drama about the survivors of a spaceship disaster coming to terms with being trapped in a drifting escape pod and the fact that the saboteur behind their mishap is still at large (S) (907975). 1.20 Are You Being Served? (Bob Kellett 1977

UK). The staff of Grace Bros go on a package tour to the costas in this big-screen spin-off (904918). 3.05 Tall Death Us Do Part (Norman Corien 1968 UK). Another spin-off – this one more ambitious than most – a history, no less, of the Garnett family from the Blitz to the 1966 World Cup. Social history courtesy of Johnny Speight, and starring Warren Mitchell, Dandy Nichols, Una Stubbs and Anthony Booth (345111).

4.50 Football Extra (R) (4135869). 5.30 The Making of Star Trek: First Contact (5898383). To 5.55am.

Channel 4

6.20 Early Morning: Sesame Street (6920505). 7.26 The Babysitters Club (R) (8461449). 7.50 Sturit Dawgs (2864449). 8.15 Little Shop (R) (8646420). 8.35 Where on Earth Is Cammen San Diego? (R) (S)

9.00 The Big Breakfast (99081). 10.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (R) (S) (87449), * 10.30 The Crystal Maze (R) (S) (24246), * 11.30 Back to the Future (R) (S) (6573541).

11.55 The Pink Panther (R) (S) (7828438). 12.20 Rocko's Modern Life (R) (S) (6564265). 12.45 Soul Searching. A Jewish woman, pregnant by a married man, wents to have the baby brought up within her faith (S) (736028). *

1.15 Razing from Cheltenham. The 1.35, 2.10, 2.45 and 3.20 races (49090604).
3.45 The Beast Bites Back (R) (S) (2559772). *
4.30 Countdown (S) (94). *
5.00 News and Weather (9650604).
5.05 TREE I'm All Right Jack (John Boutting 1959 UK).

Contemporary British labour relations as satirised in this classic Boulting Brothers comedy. Ian Carmichael is in the blue corner - shop-steward Peter Sellers is in the red one (22878604). *

Peter Sellers is in the red one (22878604). *

7.66 All Steamed Up. Britain's narrow gauge steam railways explored (S) (2284). *

8.00 Brookside. Jimmy says his goodbyes, but is he really leaving for good this time? (S) (3449). *

8.30 A Woman of Independent Means. 2/3. Continuing the mini-series starring Sally Field as the southern belle. Concludes tomorrow (S) (38568517). * 10.15 Klimik! in the footsteps of last Christmas's Pallas,

British actors add surreal voice-overs to a Dutch elevision medical soap opera (S) (647807). * 10.25 Cews. Eddie Izzard's long-awaited debut sitcom, about a family of cattle (Pam Ferris and others in cow masks), and it's a stinker. It just doesn't work

although, on the plus side, at least it's original and has moments when sheer incredulity forces out the odd laugh. Not even cult material (S) (799807). * 11.25 Brubaker (Stuart Rosenberg 1980 US). Impressive reforming prison drama, based on events in Arkansas in the late 1960s, where prisoners were hired out by gun-carrying convictguards to farms and businesses in the region. Robert Redford is the newly appointed liberal-minded governor (27986468). *

1.50 Being There (Hal Ashby 1979 US). The Peter Sellers season continues with this influential parable about how America is taken in by the sort of homely ignorance it mistakes for deep wisdom. Sellers is the gardener who gets to the White

House. Shirley MacLaine supports (61403685). 4.15 Hoffman (Alvin Rakoff 1970 UK). Off-thewall black comedy in which middle-aged (Sinead Cusack) and attempts to blackmail her into spending a week with him (408840).

ITV/Regions

ARGLIA
As London except: 12.45pm Cross Wits
(936046). 5.34 Anglia Air Watch (590604).
11.39 Anglia Weather (850265). 1.20am
Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am
Not Fade Away (6466666). 4.40-5.55am
Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024). **CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE** GHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.44pm Yorks: Local
Weather (36148197). 12.45 Emmerdale
(936046). 5.34 Yorks: Local Weather
(590604). 11.39 Yorks: Local Weather
(850265). 1.20am Entertainment UK
(8485717). 2.15am Channel 3 North East:
Film: Hollywood Heroes and Heroines
(123666). 2.25am Yorks: Film: Hollywood
Heroes and Heroines (972869). 4.10
5.55am Channel 3 North East: Film: A Talental 5.55am Channel 3 North East: Film: A Tale of Two Cities (418227).

CENTRAL As London except: 11.39pm Local Weather (850265). 5.30-5.55am The Making of Star Trek: Beyond First Contact (5898383).

As London except: 12.44pm HTV Weather (36148197). 12.45 The Making of James and the Giant Peach (936046). 5.34 HTV Weather (590604). 11.39 HTV Weather (850265). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Not Fade Away (6466666). 4.40-5.55am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).

MERIDIAN As London except: 12,45pm World of Wonder (936046). 1,20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3,45am Not Fade Away (6466666). 4.40-5.55am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).

WESTCOUNTRY As London except: 12.45pm Emmerdale (936046). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Not Fade Away (6466666). 4.40-5.55am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).

54G
6.20am Sesame Street (6920505), 7.20
The Babysitters Club. (R) (8461449). 8.15
Little Shop. (R) (8646420). 8.35 Where on
Earth is Carmen San Diego? (R) (3903975),
10.00 Film: Tom Thumb (17431979),
11.45 The Adventures of Mole (164371),
12.45pm Slot Meithrin (736028). 4.30
Famous Fred (94). 5.00 5 Pump (7265),
5.30 Countdown (46), 6.00 News
(479772). 6.05 Heno (873449). 6.35 Slon
a Sian (771642), 7.00 Pobol v Cwm

a Sian (771642). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (976420). 7.25 MOM; Yr Eidel (241517). 8.00 Stewart Whyte McEwan Jones (790994). 8.45 News (243159). 9.00 Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen (2555). 10.30 Brookside (495739). 11.05 Klinik! (196284). 11.20 Cows (909517). 12.15am Caroline in the City (38383). 12.45-12.45am Homicide: Life on the

Radio

Radio 1

(97.5-99.60mb; PAO) 6.00am Charlie Jordan 10.00 Ra-dio 1's Top 100 Hits 6.00 Steve Lamacq's Hits for '97 8.00 Stay-ing Out for the Summer 11.00 in Concert: Orbital 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-5.00am Charlie

Radio 2 6.00am Nick Barraclough 8.05 Sarah Kennedy 10.00 Alex Lester 1.00 Christmas Cornedy Classics 1.30 The Beatles at the BBC 2.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Side: Male or Break 8.00 Love on the Moors 9.30 Carlo Curley: Pavarotti of the Organ 10.30 Vintage Christmas: The Paleface 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Adrian Finighan 3.00-

Radio 3 (\$4.2-52.4MBz FM) 6.00am On Ak. 9.00 Morning Collection. 10.15 New Year's Day Concert. Live

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on the Salar

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from the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein. A concert of music by the Strauss family and se, by the purpose earnly and friends performed by the Vienna Philharmonic. See Choice, above.

12.35 Hopes and Resolutions. Muster than the Change sic from the Renaissance to celebrate the New Year. 1.00 Composer of the Week.

Bernstein. 2.00 Midweek Choice. 4.00 Choral Evensong. 5.00 Music Machine. 5.15 Interpretations on Record.

Choice

An emperor's carriage with golden wheels, a gypsy fortune-teller. Mrs Karl Marx's parlour-maid... what connects the gripping anecdotes in Golden Spokes (7.45pm R4) is the uneven relationship between history and memory. Plain old nostalgia in the New Year's Day Concert (10.15am R3), conducted by Riccardo Muti.

6.30 Private Passions.
7.30 A Grand, Mysterious Harmony.
9.30 Saki Short Stories. Louisa Mebbin proves that even a paid companion will turn.
9.35 Couli Quartet. Shostakovich:
String Operater No. 11. Op. 122.

9.35 COM Quarter Shostadwich:
String Quarter No 11, Op 122.
10.00 Voices. Jain Burnside invites
listeners to pick their favourite
songs and singers of 1996.
10.45 The Shelfac Show. Jeremy
Nicholas introduces music from the age of 78rpm records, includ-ing works by Brahms, Auber and Jean Françaix, in performances by Olga Haley, Paderewski and

Alexander Kipnis. 11.30 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky. 12.30 Jazz Notes. Helen Mayhew picks some favourite discs from 1996. Presented by Digby Fairweather. 1.00 Through the Night. With Donald Macleod.

5.00-6.00am Sequence.

(\$2.4.94.BMB); FN; 1.9\$PA(2)(\$) 6.00am News.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 The Living World.
7.00 Today.
8.43 Below the Parapet.

10.00 (LW) Daily Service. 10.00 (FM) A Good Read. 10.15 (LW) On This Day. 10.30 Woman's Hour. Jenni Munay examines why women have fallen 11.30 The Old Curiosity Shop. By Charles Dickens. 12,00 Paid Company. 12.25 King Street Junior. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Bell Book and Candle. Super-

and bewildered Anthony Henderson stumbles across a witches coven in Knightsbridge. 3.30 Carry on up the Shrubbery

Harry Thompson traces the rise of alternative beliefs in the 1930s. 4.00 News. 4.05 Kaleidoscope Quiz. 4.45 Short Story: New Year's Day. Written and read by Fay Weldon, 5.00 PM.

5.55 Shipping Forecast. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Going South. Marseilles. 6.30 Quote Unquote. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers.

7.20 Face the Facts. 7.45 Golden Spakes. See Choice, above. 8.30 Close Shaves. The age-old ritu-

al of male shaving is examined. 10,00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet and Black, By Stendhal. (3/10).

11.00 The Criesse Shop Presents.
The Butter Factory, Madcap com-

edy including a tortoise-racing professor and a radio gardener who specialisas in buming roses.

11.30 Date with Faire. A stroke of outrageous fortune gives a film buff the chance to become a movie magui, Written by Prii Whelans and Gary Parke, (2/4). 11.45 The Joys of Yiddish. 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Alice Through the Looking Glass. By Lewis Caroll. (3/7).

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Ration 9
GRB, \$19th lift)
G.Coam Breakdast 8-35 Magazzine
11.35 Dirty News Special 12.00
Midday with Mair 2.05 Sport on Five
5.30 Brooking's Football Night 10.05
The Food of Love and Hate \$1.08
Night Edna 11.35 Never Wallk Alone
12.05 After Hours 2.05 Cip All Night
5.05-6.00am Class Warfarts

Classic FM (189.8-161.99mb; FM) (189-161.58th: Ri)
6.00am Sally Peterson 9.00 Henry
Kelly 12.60 Pop Go the Classics
2.00 The Royal Opera: 50 Giorious
Years 4.00 Nick Balley 6.00 Newsright Big Preview 7.00 Gardening
Forum 8.00 Evening Concert: 10:00
Quentin Howard 1.00 Mel Cacobir
4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths,

Virgin Radio
(1215, 1197-12988) MF 185, MR RW
6.00am Jeremy Clark 18.00 Russand Jono 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00
(FM) Paul Coyle 6.00 (MW) Richard Porter 10.09 Mark Forrest 2.88-" World Service

(1986): US 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Feith 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Assignment 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Merklan (Books) 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off-the Sheft Paula 4.45 Früge our own Correspondent 5.00 Newsday 5.39-6.00am Assignment

Satellite

Sky 1 6.00am Morning Glory (920062). 9.00 Designing Women (47994). 9.30 Designing Women (83284). 16.00 Another World (66468). 11.00 Days of Our Lives (46604). 12.00 Oprah Witsfrey (73807), 1,00 Geraldo Oprah Witaney (7.9807). 1,000 Gerano (82555). 2,00 Selfy Jessy Raphael (80230). 3,00 Jenny Jones (75791). 4,00 The Oprah Wintey Show (94826). 5,00 Star Tree The Next Generation (1246), 6.00 Real TV (6401), 6.30 Married with Children (3951), 7.00-The Simpsons (2975), 7.80 M*A*S*H (5265), 8.00 Sightings (21468), 9.60 Silk Stalkings (59824), 10.80 Mix stalkings (59884). 10.00 Murder One (67831). 11.00 Star Tiels: The Next

\$107 2 7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (8524371), 8.00 Renegate (8500791), 9.00 New York Under-cover (852055), 10.60 Water Rats (8523642). 11.00 Late Show with David Letterman (7604178). 12.90-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play

Generation (67197). 12.00 LAPD (43192), 12.30 The Lucy Show

(37043): 1.98-6.00am Hit Mix Long

Sty Revies:
6.89em Demetrius and the Gladistors (1954) (68371). 8.80 The Blue Bird (1976) (28710). 10.00 Sweet Talker (1990) (65888). 12.00 Gatting Even with Dad (1994) (18333). 2.00 Charle's Ghest Story (1994) (28371). 4.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (6178). 6.99 Jesh and S.A.M. (1993) (21604), 7.30 El News Week in Re-view (10352), 10.00 Before Sundse (1995) (181555), 11.45 Secret Games III (1995) (702517). 1.20 Trapped and Deceived (1994) (9244314), 2.50 Shame II: The Secret (1996) (5808840). 4.20-5.55am Josh and S.A.M. (1993)

Movie Channel 6.00am The Errand Boy (1961) (37246). 7.30 Charles Dickens' Ghost Stories: From the Pickwick Papers (1987) (30333). 8.30 Prehysteria! 2 (1994) (26245). 10.00 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (56130). 12.00 3 Little Ninjas and the Lost Treasure (1990) (16975). 2.00 Lassie

treasure (1990) (1697s), 200 Cassa (1994) (26913), 4.00 Young Indiana Jones: Treasure of the Peacock's Eye (1996) (7420), 6.00 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (13449), 8.00 Naled Gun 33 ½; The Final In-sult (1994) (18994), 10.00 Timecop (1994) (330994), 11.40 Golden Gate (1903) (271998), 11.5 The Hamilton (1993) (701888). 1.15 The House That Mary Bought (1994) (277376). 3.65 The Happy Hooker (1974) (1.49024). 4.45-6.05am Prehysteria! 2 (1994) (13005).

Sky Movies Gold 4.00pm This Island Earth (1954) (6439866), 6.00 Starmen (1984 (9266159), 8.00 Enemy Mine (1985) (9261604), 10.00 Predato (1987) (9533062). 11.50 Allens (1986) (92221284). 2.05 Lifeforce (1985) (5883550). 4.05-5.55am My Stepmother is an Alien (1988)

Sky Sports 1 7,00am Racing Navs (75553), 7,310 Crick-et. Zimbebwe Vs England – Like (8933623): 3,30 Sports Centre Results Spocial (75265), 5.00 Footbal Special Double Header - Use (92/9/772), 10.15 Sports Centre (710449), 10.45 Criclet - Live (439438), 12.45 Sports Centre (34601-9).

1.15 Football Special (73046227). 4.15-4.45am Sports Centre (397550). Sky Sports 3

12.00moon Drag Racing (93511791). 12.30 Best Goals and Football Bloopers of 1996 (99537081). 2.00 NHL los Hackey (20091623). 4.00 Watersports (43493772), 5.00 WWF (75951975). 6.00 Sports Unlimited (67568371). 7.00 Cricket (75789449). 9.00 Water sports World (20092352). 10.00 Sports Unimited (20002739). 11.00-11.30pm Futbol Mundiel (43494401). Live TV

6.00am Information TV 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pets 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Canary Wharf 11.00 Mind and Body Carery Wheri 11.00 Mind and Body
11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Resetations
12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love
1.30 Psychic Rets 2.00 Fashion 2.30
Mind and Body 3.00 Video Box 3.30 Pin
Money 4.00 Spanish Archer 4.30 Why
Files 5.00 Canery Whari 5.30 Looking for
Love 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport Live 7.00
Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 8.00 PsyLive 18.04 8.30 Missian Breson's 9.03 The chic Rets 8.30 Missing Person's 9.03 The Why Files 9.30 Looking for love 10.03 Sport 10.30 Stand-Up Live Special: Fied-die Starr 11.30 The Sex Show 12.00-6.00am Night-Time Programmes

Going Out

CINEMA NEW RELEASES

CINEMA NEW RELEASES
101 DALMATIANS (U) Starring Glenn Close
as Cruells De VII Actors Warne Pillages
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Rice/Lloyd Webber annical.

Lycnan Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-656
1802) ◆ Chering X. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7]

3.00, £15-£32.50, 165 mins.

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR

Gene Wilder stars in Neil Simon's connec More successful gags than you have any right to expect.

Cheen's Staffesbury Avezane, W1 (0171-494
5590) & Piccasilly Circ. Mon-Sat 8.00, [4]
2.30 [7] 4.00, £9.50-£25. 140 mins.

MISS SAIGON
Thenre Royal, Drury Lanc Catherine Street,
WC2 (0171-494 5060)
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Mon.Sai 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, 28.50-132.50. 165 St Marin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00, [31 2.45 [7] 5.00, 83-622, 135 mins.

Olivier:
Gays And Dalls Richard Byre's production
of Frank Loesser's Broadway-set assistal
stars: Carbe Peters and Joanna Riding,
Mon-Sat 7.15, [7] 2.00, ends 19 Mar.

to muss.

Lynchor

Death Of A Salesman Ahm Armstrong
stars in Arther Miller's searing study of
themly conflict. Toulets, 7.30, continuin
rep. 175 mins. rep. 173 mans.
Consider
Fair Ladies At A Game Of Poem Cards
A young amount and a maid full in love
in this tale of forbidded countly love.
Thinglet, 7:30, in rep and 29 Jan. 165 mins.
Olivier, £12-£32.50. Lynchon: £8-£24.
Consider £12-£16. South bank, London
eet. 607. 4017.922 227.

The Barbicon: Macheth Tim Albery's production. Tonight 7.15, in rep until 27 Mar. 195 mins. The Pic The Herbal Bad Peter Whelso's emotion

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:

thrifer inspired by a real-life scandal involv-ing Shakespeare's daughter. Budght, 7.15, in rep total 16 Jan. 160 mins. Barbiera re: £6-£24.50. The Pir: £10-£17. Silk Street, London ECZY 8DS. 0171 638 8891. Felfini-inspired musical about a film-

whose woman trouble names a creative block.

Dosmar Winchoser Earliann Street, WC2
(0171-369 1732) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sai 7.30,
[4][7] 3pm, ends 8 Mar, £12-£25. 120 mins. THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS Devotrieres
Comic concert pupical.

Apodo Staftesbury Ave., W1 (0171-494 5070)

Picc Circ, Mon-Thu Span, Fri & San Span
& Span, ends 18 Jan, £7.50.£25. 130 mins.

OLD WICKED SONGS Jon Marans' drama, starring Bob Hostins. Gielgad Shaltesbury Avenna, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30, [5] 2.30

Tennessee Williams tense drams stam Jessica Lange and Toby Stephens.

Themse Royal Haymanist, 5W1 (0171-930 8800) ◆ First Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [5][7] 3.00, £10-£30, 195 mins WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Starring Diana Rigg and David Suchet.

Akhopch Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003)

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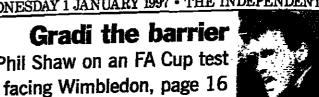
Ano

The

of things to come, page 18



Gradi the barrier Phil Shaw on an FA Cup test



Mercury moves in opposite directions for England's premier sportsmen



run has coincided with Dion

Dublin's move from striker to

centre back and yesterday he re-

futed suggestions he was un-

because I am a centre for-

ward," he said, "but with the po-

sition we've been in it's a case

of all hands to the pump. If that means going back into defence, then I'm willing to play there for the good of the team."

tackers is a concept not un-

reverse is not always the case, al-

ter their 7-1 rout of Spurs on

matches and who are slipping to-

wards the relegation zone again.

Everton are also sliding al-

What looked a bright picture

have enough men these days."
It could have been Miss

Defenders wishing to be at-

I would rather play up front

happy with the change.

Consistency the key for Liverpool

GUY HODGSON

It may have come as a shock yesterday that the screen queen Joan Collins was receiveing an OBE rather than handing them out, but that was nothing to what Chelsea experienced at Anfield this season. Unbeaten after six Premiership matches a spanking new era looked likely until the rude reality intruded on Ruud Gullit's honeymoon as a player-manager.

Spanking was the word as they lost 5-1 that day. As a rethey lost 5-1 that day. As a result the team has been defined morning? It is not surprising their the urge to recall Andy Cole,

They seem capable of losing to leave a remainder before sloping in the classic Chelsea mould good but not good enough - but that could change if they beat Liverpool today and set opti-mism raging round west London

on top of squandering a 2-0 lead against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, and Chelsea's inclination would surely be to play for a Uefa Cup place and concentrate on the FA Cup. "We need three points," Craig Burley, their midfield player, said. The Sheffield Wednesday result was a setback because we had played so well early on. We paid the penalty for not killing

Liverpool could give lessons in doing that but have established a five-point advantage despite hitting their finest form only fleetingly. "We can be frustrating at times." Roy Evans, their manager, conceded, "but if we concentrate on

Reverential, beautiful

Attractive curio of Bible-

She will go to Bill in the

finish (7) 10 Circular letter from

11 A tear in sheet from

12 Composer to pitch tuning-

13 State speed shown by im-

mature insect (5)
15 Did Forster use it for his

17 Joyce's work, to name

19 Go beyond forty, say, in

22 How a hooter sounds? (5)

Ð

famous passage? (6,3)

Greece (7)

stock (9)

note (5)

thumper (Old Testament)

usually come. The secret is to stay patient." Liverpool, who expect Robbie Fowler, Mark Vright and Jason McAteer to shake off injuries, are certain of going into the new year ahead which, in their case, normally December 1976, they have been top team nine times at the turn of the year and have converted that into a championship on sev-

en occasions. On the minus side, Manchester United are the last side to convert second place at Hogmanay into first come May - in 1992 and sumed the mood of a man who believes the best is imminent. Three straight wins and 10 goals without reply have moved United into second, a position they will reinforce if they defeat sixthplaced Aston Villa tonight. Roy Keane, for one, believes

the tide has turned: "At the start of the season we had a few injuries and the players weren't playing to their capabilities, but it's starting to come together now. All you need is three or four good results and it helps the confidence.

preferring to ease him back into anyone. They accrued just 28 the team with 20-minute bursts, and with Phil Neville out with glandular fever and Gary Pallister plagued with a recurrent back injury, his only dilemma will be whether to include Nicky Butt in the starting line-up.

"Villa are a handful," Ferguson said. "They have recovered from a sticky start and are in good form at the moment. But we've also come through our little hiccup and our players are in the frame of mind where they don't mind who their opponents are.'

off on a three-match suspension. points from their 35 League A hat-trick would do nicely. games in 1996 and in some of Boro would prefer the match those matches they were able to to be postponed although after call on something like their

last week's fiasco at Blackburn first team. It is not a huxury they they are hardly likely to say so. will have against Arsenal today But two Premierships are defas seven players are definitely initely off today: Derby County against Sheffield Wednesday out and three more are doubtful. So dire is the situation that and Tottenham's match at their manager, Bryan Robson, Leicester. There was also an inspection at Highfield Road vesmay make an unwanted playing swan-song 10 days before his terday but Coventry are hopeful 40th birthday their game against Sunderland

To make things even worse for Boro, Ian Wright, the Prewill go ahead.

After four successive victories, they can scarcely wait to get miership's leading scorer with 22 goals, will be anxious to

on to any pitch no matter what

though, like Middlesbrough, Maine Road manager is trying Wenger insists he is not in- knapp in an exchange deal for who is valued at £6m by the with their injuries it is hardly surprising. Half their team are The Leicester midfielder Neil Lennon has been charged with out today against reviving Blackburn and David Unsworth misconduct by the Football Asis missing through suspension. sociation for allegedly making gestures to lans. Leanon reported to the police by Newtwo weeks ago with everyone fit has suddenly got a bit thread-bare defensively," Joe Royle, their manager, said. "You can't castle supporters for the

> Brighton have banned supporters spokesman, Paul Samrah, from all home games for 20 months after the chief executive, David Bellotti, blamed him for leading protests and threats at the Goldstone Ground. Samrah. a prominent member of the Brighton Independent Supporters Association, is to seek

Winter bites into new year action

Nearly a quarter of a million football supporters in England will have to find something else to do today after the cold and snow bit deep into the New Year's Day programme.

Two Premiership games have already been postponed -Leicester's match against Tot-tenham and Derby's fixture with Sheffield Wednesday. The Nationwide League programme has been severely disrupted, as has the Scottish League. Motherwell's match against Kilmarnock became the first Premier Division casualty north of the border and in the Second Division only Livingston's match with Berwick remains.

Derby's game was called off on police advice, with manager Jim Smith saying: "There is no problem with the pitch but the approach roads to the ground are treacherous. It was in the interest of the fans to call

The Nationwide League topof-the-table game between Sheffield United and Wolves was one of a number of matches in the First Division that has fallen victim. West Brom fans, however, are being given the chance to watch the home game agains Tranmere Rovers for free if they help to clear a snow-covered Hawthorns. Supporters are being asked to bring along shovels, snowboards and brushes from 9am as the pitch covers and most of the surrounds are under a blanket of snow.

On the day that Coventry City announced that they are planning to install a new £300,000 undersoil heating system this summer, the flood of postponements is bound to fuel the debate about a winter break. John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers Association, said. "People say it is time to grasp the neftle and consider a winter break, But I don't think the situation is as clear cut as it was years ago.

"Many football clubs are now known at Newcastle even if the ples and, when you're a corporate business, you are affected by market forces. The Christmas though it is hard to nit-pick afperiod is a big money-spinner. doubt if the finance experts at Saturday. Today they meet Leeds, who have not won in five the big clubs, who have a major voice, would like to give up that revenue. The feeling among our members is that there should be

some kind of a break. One of the most attractive ugby union fixtures in Wales, Llanelli's match against Italy, has been called off. In rugby league, the friendlies between Dewsbury and Batley and Keighley and Huddersfield have been rearranged for Sunday.

Of the seven race meetings scheduled for today, only as Southwell's all-weather track has escaped, so far.

Beasant blunder makes Taylor a Saint

his last mistake for Southampton after Graeme Souriess yesterday spent £600,000 on Barnet's German-born goal keeper, Maik Taylor.

Beasant made a hash of a clearance to gift John Barnes a goal and the points against Liverpool on Sunday, prompting the Southampton manager to lift Taylor, a 6ft 5in former soldier, from the Third Division. The keeper has been registered in time to face Wimbledon today.

Frank Clark wants his old Nottingham Forest keeper. Tommy Wright, to join him at Manchester City. The new

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

to intercept the Northern Ireland international's move from Forest to Reading where he has been on loan. Wright is available at around £250,000.

Arsene Wenger is ready to rejoin the bidding for Paul Ince if Internazionale put the England midfielder up for sale.

We would think it over if Paul Ince became available," the Arsenal manager said, "Inter will decide the future of Ince, but, for his quality, yes we would be interested, just like many other clubs. There have been no bids or inquiries but I am looking at many situations and I don't worry about the nationality of a player, just his ability and character and whether he would fit into our team."

Tuesday's Solution

terested in signing the 32year-old Jürgen Klinsmann, the former Tottenham striker, who is now unsettled at Bayern Munich. "Ideally I always want to buy cheap, good and young. Wenger said.

Gerry Francis is ready to

fend off any Premiership rivals harbouring hopes of snatching leading players from Tottenham. Teddy Sheringham is being linked with Chelsea and centreback Sol Campbell is believed to be interesting leaders Liverpool. Speculation has been fuelled by the apparent reluctance of both players to agree new,

long-term deals. Liverpool, who recently sold central defender John Scales to Spurs, could offer Jamie Red-

Campbell and Francis has never denied his admiration for the talented midfielder. Liverpool wouldn't want to

be heard talking about my players and I'm sure they wouldn't be happy about me talking about theirs, so I will pass on that," Francis said. "But Sol is not going anywhere and I've said many times that the story about Teddy telling me he wants to leave is nonsense. But again people go away and write oth-

Wimbledon's Norwegian midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen has turned down the offer of a new four-year contract. "I don't want to stay at Wimbledon any longer than one more season," the 26-year-old Leonhardson,

gestures he was claimed to have made during Leicester's 2-0 win in October.

sitting out the match was con-

sidered as an option and the

skipper would not comment at

all about England's batting or-

der. "We know what it is going

to be, but we are not saying and

you will all have to wait and

see," said Atherton, who in the

first one-day international

against Zimbahwe batted at

No 3 but made only 23 from 77

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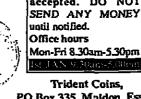
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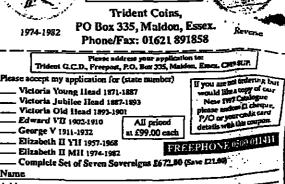
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In his last 17 one-day innings Atherion has passed 30 only twice and there is a school of thought that regards his stu-dious style of batting as out of date in the world of 50-over internationals, especially now that the first 15-over fielding restrictions make quick scoring at the top of the order essential. White and Irani will share fifth bowler duties, and England are in need of an uplifting New Year's Day performance, "We want to get back into the series

said. "After that we look forward to New Zealand and on to the Ashes series against Australia

next summer.

in this game and then go on to win it 2-1 on Friday," Atherton

ENGLAND (for Second one-day interme-tional v Zimbabwe, Harare, today): N V Knight A J Slewort (wickelvesper), M A Athe-ton (captaint, N Hussain, J P Crawley, C White, R C Iront, R D B Croft, D Gough, C E W Sil-verwood, A D Multaily.

side in recent years. A curt "no" was all Atherton

Botham inspires final twist to Irani's injury said: "Ian Botham has been inwould say when asked if himself

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from Harare

Ronnie Irani said vesterday he has Ian Botham to thank for starting the new year with renewed hope. The Essex allrounder plays his first match since 15 December today, when England must beat Zimbabwe in Harare to prevent a one-day series defeat.

Mike Atherton, the England captain, plays in the match as well, despite his recent slump in batting form, with Graham Thorpe the batsman sacrificed to make way for both the allrounders Irani and Craig White.

Irani was in great pain from a back injury when England lost the opening one-day international by two wickets in Bulawayo 16 days ago. Within 24 hours he was being driven to Harare to have a bone scan and an injection into a "hot spot" in his lower back. After being told rest was the only initial cure, Irani admitted he thought his tour was over, especially when White was drafted in as

cover for him. However, slowly at first, he began to test out his bowling in the nets with Botham in attendance for most of the time. Irani

spirational. He had back problems in his career and he's helped me in slightly modifying my action. What I have tried to achieve is not to twist my back during my bowling action. If that happens I get pain, and in the first weeks of the tour I think I

was trying too hard to impress. "Working with Ian, and with David Lloyd and John Emburey, I have studied myself on video and now I feel great about an action in which I use my back and my physique to get pace and bounce. When I am bowling well I bit the seam reg-ularly and in the nets it has been going so well that I have not felt

I am putting any effort into it. "Of course, I must now put everything into action during a match situation, but I am very confident and pleased to be back in the side.

Atherton, meanwhile, insistconsidered dropping himself despite tour form which has yielded just 153 runs in 11 innings. Thorpe, of course, returned from a similar bad run with 50 not out on Sunday in the second Test. The Surrey lefthander has been very much a fixture in England's one-day

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Georgia? (7)
DOWN

shovel? (4-3)

criminal! (5)

to develop (9)

25 A loud van is an offence

posite in effect (7) Ostentatious agent holds

Waiters pouring scorn on

Powder face with small

more tricky it is (7) Look, hidden in marsh is a 21

Money-making cure, vital

Expresses contempt audi-

Quick-action receptacle

Difficult to prove, the

19

sane (5)

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bly for alcoholic drink (5) 24 Henry finished with see-

Rhinestone sea-nymph

tanner (7)

Strip taken from oak for a

take these objects (9) Winning by depriving of

weaponry (9) Disclaimers involving opening of Easter Island

ing? (7) Toast hero – ice-breaker!

Post calling for literary knowledge? (7)

Last pair in party, support-

ing teachers, must be in-

18 One screened dwarf retir-